

2002-3

## DIT Independent, 1st.-31st. of March, 2002

DIT:Students Union

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A good  
month at  
the flicks



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Election  
Special



Pages 4,5,6

An  
Olympic  
Opportunity



Page 12

## €71,000 lost on RAG ball

*DITSU left to count cost*

By Aisling Casey

IT IS estimated that the DIT Students Union lost €71,000 after failing to attract the desired numbers for this year's RAG Ball, which was recently held in the Point Depot.

The event attracted only 1,000 students to the Point Depot on the 14th February, on a night when DITSU hoped to attract as many as 6,000 partygoers to what was dubbed as their highlight of the year. However, this number included complimentary tickets, which the union had handed out.

Although members of the Students Union were unavailable to the DIT Independent for comment, DITSU's Board of Directors have stated that they are treating the loss very seriously and are currently looking at cost cutting measures which can be taken to recoup the money lost. Although an insurance premium of €3,200 was taken out by DITSU for the event it merely covered public and employer liability. It did not cover lack of student support for the event and consequent cancellations.

Several students (who wished to remain nameless) said that the holding of the Ball on Valentine's Day, with many students choosing to spend the romantic evening with loved ones was a major mistake.

"It was a disaster," said one DIT student. "The event was riddled with incompetence. DITSU clearly hadn't learned anything from the mistakes of the Halloween Ball." The price of €20 per ticket has

also been cited as a deterrent to students at the end of a long and costly week of socialising. "We were supposed to raise funds for charity but does that mean that our students have to suffer along the way?" wrote another student to this paper recently. "I wonder how much of the students' money have they lost and how will our Overall-President justify her actions?" DITSU's Jarlath Molloy refuted criticism of the Union's handling of the week, stating: "I would like to thank the DITSU Executive for running a brilliant show and congratulate them for all their hard work and effort that went into it... maybe all those who will criticise the event could identify whether they were actually at the Ball before launching an attack on the Union?"

For those who did attend the event, the night was widely acclaimed as a great night out. DITSU assembled a line up which included the Classic Beatles and Zoo2. It



Although an insurance premium of 3,200 was taken out by DITSU for the event it merely covered public and employer liability

also featured renowned DJ's such as Al Gibbs, Steve Cooper and Mark McCabe and the event was sponsored by Dublin's FM104.

The week, which whose theme was 'raising and giving' to charities chosen by the students weeks before the gig has not been the financial success that DITSU would have wished it to be. It is highly unlikely that St Vincent De Paul and the Special Olympics fund will receive any donations from RAG Week events.

This is the second successive year that DITSU has lost a substantial sum of money on a student night in the Point. In November 2000, Former DITSU President Vinny Dooley organised a Halloween Ball in the Point Depot, which sold few tickets, resulting in the event being cancelled and consequently losing nearly €47,500 of student funds.

Reasons given at that time by the Students Union for the dismal support included bad timing and bad publicity. Given that members of the Executive felt they had put their "heart and soul" into making this year's RAG Ball a success, its failure to engage the masses is all the more a disappointment to Overall President Marguerite Fitzpatrick.

Although DITSU's Board of Directors are looking at cost cutting measures to recoup the loss, at this time there is no assurance that future funding of the Union will not suffer as a consequence.

See Editorial and Letters to the Editor Page 8

## A deafening silence



A referendum which everyone except the USI and DITSU had an opinion on.  
See editorial, page 8

## Kevin Street's drama queens

By Stephen McMullin

THIS is what it's all about, all the 'hard work', all the rehearsing, all the fretting about lines, all the last minute costume fittings. The culmination of DIT's Drama Week, where stars are made and hearts are broken... Sort of. The DIT Drama Society Award Ceremony, held in the Hilton Hotel on March 1, saw prizes handed out by the judges in a much more jovial fashion than the Oscars. There was a distinct lack of gushing speechery (much to my dismay), Russell Crowe was nowhere to be seen, and there were no post-ceremony brawls that I was aware of.

Upon arriving at the Hilton I was quickly segregated from the actors having been identified as the press and an enemy of art. That was until the Kevin St. table felt sorry for me and allowed me to sit with them, on condition I told them how great they were.

At the end of the night there was no real need since the judges did it for me, allowing them to more or less clean up.

Of the four plays entered for the awards the night

definitely belonged to Kevin St.'s Wyrd Sisters, which picked up seven gongs. These were: Best Costumes- Xenya Ostrovskaya; Best Supporting Actor- Iain Herbert; Best Comic Actress- Nicki Cunningham; Best Comic Actor- Marc Murphy; and Best Overall Performance. They also picked up the coveted Alright on the Night Award for Eoin Kearney's total abandonment of the script and the Best Moment Award for Neil Woods' immortal line "No wonder everyone needs prompting all the time".

The Cathal Brugha St.-Bolton St. alliance managed to walk away with most of the rest of the awards for their production, Ubu Cocu. They claimed Best Set; Best Actress- Saidhbh O'Malley; Best Actor- Michael Burke; Best Group Within a Play- Maeve O'Neill, Gary Mugan and Sam Jackson, as well as Best Director- Donnacadh O'Brien and Shelly Flanagan.

The final two awards went to Aungier St. for their play Judgement Day, which won Best Supporting Actress-

Paula Rouse and Best Original Scene- for Niall Campion's "When all else fails, don't trust the TV" monologue.

In addition to these there were awards presented by each of the directors for the person the felt had given the most to their production. They were presented as follows: Kevin St.- Nicki Cunningham, Mountjoy Sq.- David Moran, Aungier St.- Niall Campion and Bolton St./Cathal Brugha St.- Billy Fitzgerald (who made his acceptance speech by live satellite link-up... Well, mobile phone...)

Once the tedium of the ceremony was taken care of all present proceeded to get unceremoniously drunk leading actors to think they could dance and journalists to think they could make coherent conversation with attractive young women.

The only bit of scandal I could dig up was that Peter Jackson tried to kill one of the judges because Lord of the Rings wasn't nominated. Well, it could've happened! These Irish thespians are just too well behaved...



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**The Overall View**

Hello all,

Well RAG Week is now over and hopefully it didn't hit the pockets and the stomachs too hard.

A heart felt thanks to all of you who supported the Students Union and indeed the charities throughout the week, your participation and enthusiasm is everything, thank you!

That time of year has come around again; DITSU Elections 2002 are now under way.

Over the next week all the candidates for the full-time and part-time positions in the Students Union will be canvassing, public speaking and asking you to vote for them on Wednesday March 13th. The elections are vital in the running of the Union. Please use your vote on Wednesday.

Every vote is important; if you're not happy with what's happening then use your vote to change it.

The candidates are taking time out to run for election with the long-term goal of making the Students Union a better place for you. Listen to what they have to say, read their material and use your vote on Election Day.

The hustings (when the candidates stand up and address the student body) will be taking place on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th as follows:

**Monday 11th March:**  
Northside  
12:30pm Bolton Street  
1:00pm Mountjoy Square  
1:30pm Cathal Brugha St

**Tuesday 12th March:**  
Southside  
12:30pm Kevin Street  
1:00pm Aungier Street  
1:30pm Rathmines

This is your chance to listen to what the candidates have to say and to ask them questions about the job they're going to do for you.

Remember that you employ the Student Union Officers, your money pays their wage, so don't sit by and watch the elections happen.

You have a big part to play by casting your vote on Wednesday March 13th.

Mise le meas,  
**Marguerite Fitzpatrick**  
Overall President DITSU

# Don't overlook us, Minister

*DIT is not part of the Government's plans for an Irish Academy of Performing Arts. Victor Merriman says it's time for the real debate to begin*



A student from the DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama playing the flute. The Conservatory is the largest provider of education and tuition in music and music performance in the State

IT IS now more than two years since the government established a steering committee to bring into being an Irish Academy for the Performing Arts (IAPA). The notion of an IAPA emerged as a proposal in a report, commissioned by Michael D. Higgins, when he was Minister for Arts, Culture and Gaeltacht.

Minister De Valera commissioned a further report, on taking office in 1997: the Renshaw Report. The Gaeity School of Acting, the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and the National College of Dance in Dublin then sponsored the Deloitte and Touche Report, of which Peter Renshaw, from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, took account.

Renshaw's version of the proposed IAPA was adopted by the government. It was to have three centres or 'nodes': one in a new, purpose built facility at the Dublin City University (DCU), one in the University of Limerick (UL), and one at the Firkin Crane Centre, Cork.

The DCU node would house the administration of IAPA, music drawn from the RIAM, and the Gaeity School of Acting. UL would contribute more music provision, and an MA in Dance. The Firkin Crane Centre would become an Institute for Choreographic Studies.

The steering committee has had a difficult history, with high profile defections by RIAM and UL, and uncertainty as to the future of DCU's involvement.

However, recent reports in the Irish Times suggest that a Governing Body for IAPA will be constituted shortly.

In January 2000, the funds available to develop IAPA stood at IR£35 million (£44.5 million). Anyone would welcome a commitment to spend that kind of money on the education of performers

in Ireland. The question as to how best this money might be spent has still not been adequately aired, mainly because a new institution appeared from the outset as the only option, and because so many groups active in the field have not been consulted. Neither has there been any discussion of appropriate models of performer education for the 21st Century.

The Conservatory of Music and Drama (CM&D) at DIT is not addressed in Renshaw or Deloitte and Touche. This struck many people, including staff and students at Adelaide Road, Chatham Row and Rathmines Road, as odd. The Conservatory is the largest provider of education and tuition in music and music performance in the state. It also attracts almost 800 applications per year to its three year diploma in acting, and will shortly have

a 4 year honours degree in the area. The CM&D has postgraduate students in both music and drama, and offers a taught MA in Music Technology at Rathmines.

Many outstanding musicians are graduates of CM&D, or as it is still known to many, The College of Music. Some of the finest of Ireland's working musicians - including traditional musicians - teach at the Conservatory. Some 1300 young people and adult learners avail of individual and class tuition across the range of orchestral, keyboard, musicianship, vocal, opera and drama studies. Dr Bernadette Greevy, founder artistic director of Anna Livia International Opera Festival, is our artist-in-residence.

The exclusion of the Conservatory from Renshaw's map raises serious questions about its reliability

as a guide for policy makers. And there are other problems with the IAPA concept. Specifically,

- 44.5 million will not purchase in 2002 and later what it might have purchased in 2000. The current programme of expansion at Cork School of Music alone has a budget in excess of this figure.
- No-one knows how the recurring costs of IAPA would be met.
- No-one knows how existing provision will be resourced, if IAPA goes ahead.

Since Renshaw, there have been developments in performance education around the country which were could not have been taken into account in either Renshaw or Deloitte and Touche.

All courses compete internally in their own

institutions for funds which may not always be adequate to their needs. In other countries it is recognised that the education of performers, like the practical education of scientists and chefs, requires dedicated facilities and funds. This is not followed through in Ireland at present, as students and staff at CM&D are all too well aware.

There is a need for properly housed and funded performance education in the capital. The Conservatory of Music and Drama at DIT has played a major role in this field, and has the staff, programmes and vision to support a first class performance academy.

The question of educational models, as well as that of access to art form education and training needs to be publicly considered before any decisions are made.

The Conservatory's approach to lifelong learning and to the rounded education of practitioners of music and drama is unique. It has proven highly effective in enabling graduates to earn their living from the practice of their art form, along European lines, equally effectively as performers and teachers.

There is a need for a national debate on, and strategy for, delivering a high quality education in performance and related studies to all who seek to develop careers in the arts and in the cultural industries.

As the provider of education in music and drama from pre-instrumental workshops to PhD in performance, the Conservatory of Music and Drama, DIT, will contribute fully and generously to any such initiative.

*Victor Merriman is Senior Lecturer in Drama, and Acting Head of the Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin Institute of Technology.*

## Choral society raise the roof

**By Aisling Casey**

THE DIT Choral Society 'raised the roof' recently at the National Concert Hall with an electrifying performance of operatic favourites.

The National Concert Hall came alive last month to the melodic tones of the DIT Choral Society. The Conservatory of Music and Drama joined the choir in their production of the immensely popular, 'Carmina Burana'.

Dublin's newly formed orchestra, Dublin Sinfonia also played on the night. The orchestra is composed of players from professional Irish orchestras and a selected group of Conservatory students about

to embark on a career in the industry.

Lyric FM presenter Sean Rocks compered the evening to a rapturous reception.

The night comprised of some of the world's best loved arias and choruses, ranging from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro to La Verdi's La Traviata. The prizewinning DIT Youth Choir also performed on the night accompanied by pianist, Mairéad Hurley.

Under the careful direction of conductor Bernie Sherlock, the DIT Choral Society has enjoyed much success.

Ms Sherlock studied conducting for two years in Hungary at the Liszt Academy.

The society was founded in 1996 to bring together students and staff from all DIT colleges to perform. Since joining DIT, Ms Sherlock has guided the choir successfully along the way, from their first concert in Christ Church Cathedral to their debut in 1997 at the National Concert Hall.

The choir has also won the Culwick Cup for Chamber Choirs in five consecutive Feis Ceoil.

In December 2000, the choir also launched their first CD entitled, Carols for Christmas.

*\* For information on upcoming DIT concert phone Bernie Sherlock on 01-4027825*

## Societies awards - coming soon

**By Anita Conway**

The second DIT Societies Awards ceremony will be held in April to highlight societies and individual members who have made an outstanding contribution to the extra curricular life at DIT.

The awards are broken into four categories: "Best Society" in each site, then from the entire Institute: "Best Society", "Best New or Improved Society", "Best Event" and "Best Individual".

The awards will be judged on an application made by the society or individual detailing why they feel they deserve the particular award. An application should include photographs and details of successful events. A selection committee was set up to choose from

those nominated.

The awards will be held in April and all details will be available in a couple of weeks. Your Students' Unions or Societies Organiser will deal with enquiries.

Prizes to be awarded: All winners will represent DIT at the National Societies Awards, organised by BICS (Board of Irish College Societies) which will be held on April 19th in UCC. In the past DIT have been extremely successful by being awarded National Societies Individual of the year for two years running.

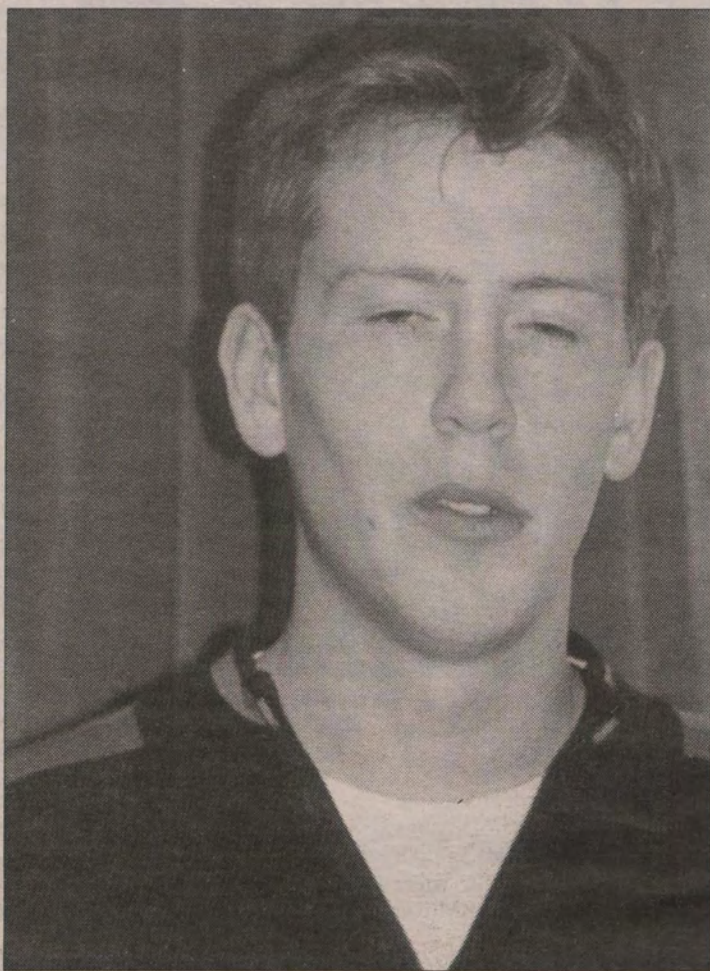
\* The Board of Irish College Societies it is a body which inaugurated about four years ago now, in order to promote the co-ordination and development of societies in Colleges and Universities.



## DIT STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS

## Overall president candidate

**Name:** Hugh Patrick O'Reilly  
**Age:** 22  
**DIT Campus:** Mountjoy Square  
**Nomination:** Overall  
**Current course of study:** Furniture Design  
**Year:** Fourth  
**Previous experience in student politics:** Have been involved in student politics over the past four years.  
**Major proposals if elected:** My major ambition is to make the SU a more professional organisation and make it more accessible to more students.  
 "I have the ambition necessary to do a good job. I am hardworking, committed and enthusiastic."



Hugh Patrick O'Reilly: running for overall DITSU president

*Sole presidential nominee says inconsistency is "killing the Student's Union stone dead"*

**By Aoife Stokes**

Hugh O'Reilly is the only candidate running for the position of Overall President of the DIT Student's Union in the DITSU elections on March 13th.

Speaking to the *DIT Independent*, O'Reilly said that, "I have always contended that the Student's Union can be a great organisation, however it has been let down by inconsistent performances of the sabbaticals we elect from year to year".

Speaking about the fact that there is only one nominee for the this year, current Overall President, Marguerite Fitzpatrick said that it is a shame but that if the students aren't happy with having just one nominee they should try for the position themselves.

"I'm sure Hugh will still put the same amount of effort into his campaign even though he's the only candidate running."

22 year-old O'Reilly has attended DIT Mountjoy Square for the past four years and is currently in his final year of a degree in Furniture Design. Throughout his college career he has been involved in the Student's Union undertaking a range of responsibilities.

He has been a class representative for the four years and has also been a member of the Student Council.

O'Reilly held the presidency of the DIT Drama Society over the academic year 2000/ 2001 and was a founding member of the society. Under his presidency the society won 'Best Society', 'Best Event'

and 'Best Society Individual' at the first DIT Society Awards in 2001.

The main aims of O'Reilly's campaign are to bring greater levels of professionalism, communication, accountability and planning to DITSU.

"I am not contending that if elected I can immediately transform the union and all will be bright and wonderful this time next year. I am a realist and see that only as a team the union can go forward and improve the facilities and services it provides to students. At the turn of the 21st Century we need to embrace changes and improvements because unprofessional standards and practices are no longer accepted by a demanding student population."

## Cathal Brugha St under-represented as nominations announced

**By Aisling Casey**

THE nominations for Student Union sabbatical and part time officers were announced earlier this week with no sabbatical candidates going forward to represent Cathal Brugha Street.

This wasn't the only surprise for the election candidates, especially those attending Mountjoy Square, Aungier Street and Rathmines, all of whom will be competing against each other for votes.

From September 2002, Mountjoy Square students will no longer attend the Northside campus.

Instead business students will move to Aungier Street, while arts students will be accommodated on the Rathmines campus.

It will prove difficult for candidates attending any of these three colleges because canvassing will have to be done on all sites. This also includes sites at Portland Row and Temple Bar. Candidates in this position were given extra materials for attracting voters.

There will be two polling stations in Mountjoy Square, one for students who will be attending Aungier Street in September and another for those who will be attending Rathmines.

Cathal Brugha St were underrepresented at the meeting of election candidates, with no sabbatical candidates going forward. Philip Gannon was



Dermot Quain, returning officer and Marguerite Fitzpatrick, overall president speaking to the candidates

the only part-time candidate put forward by Cathal Brugha St. He is hoping "to provide a better standard of social life for the campus".

There is only one nominee for Overall President this year. Hugh O'Reilly is this year's candidate. Hugh, who has been involved in student politics over the last four years and is eager to make the Students Union more approachable for students. He said, "I have the ambition necessary to do a good job."

Voting will take place on Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th March, with Northside and Southside campuses voting on two different days. This is being done to eliminate unfairness in cross border voting.

With campaigning well underway, nominees and their canvassing teams are under strict instructions not to deface other candidates' posters, as it will result in immediate disqualification.

The election supervisory committee will monitor breach of election guidelines over the coming week.

Candidates must now publicise their campaigns as much as possible.

They will be given the chance to state their manifestos at a compulsory session of election hustings early next week. The count venue has been named as "Planet Murphy's" and the count will take place once polling stations have been closed.

# Why Q?

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## DIT STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS

## Full-time sabbatical candidates



**Name:** Brian Whitney  
**Age:** 21  
**DIT Campus:** Rathmines  
**Nomination:** President  
 Rathmines/Mountjoy  
**Current course of study:**  
 Social Care Practice  
**Year:** Second

**Previous experience of student politics:**  
 Entertainments Officer Rathmines, Councillor, Disciplinary Committee, Social and Cultural Committee Rathmines, and Class Representative.  
**Major proposals if elected:**  
 Fair representation for Rathmines and Applied Arts Students in Mountjoy.

"I'm the only one for the job and I know what it's like to come from a college with poor student facilities and lack of representation, where the larger DIT Sites refuse to recognise Student needs in smaller sites".



**Name:** Cathal Gallagher  
**Age:** 20  
**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street  
**Nomination:** Site President  
**Current course of study:**  
 Electrical and Control Engineering  
**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:**  
 Entertainments Officer 2001/2002. Class representative 2000/2001. Councillor 2000/2001.

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To turn around the trend of student apathy and promote greater involvement by the students with their union.

"I have the determination, know-how and ability to make a difference to the union."



**Name:** Ciarán Horan  
**Age:** 21  
**DIT Campus:** Aungier Street  
**Nomination:** Deputy President  
**Current course of study:**  
 Business Studies  
**Year:** Fourth

**Previous experience in student politics:** Not interested in politics, just working to achieve a better union.

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To sort classroom seats out and printers.  
 "Fresh new ideas for a new college."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name:** Darren Mc Ardle  
**Age:** 21  
**DIT Campus:** Bolton Street  
**Nomination:** Site President  
**Current course of study:**  
 Motor industry management  
**Year:** Third

**Previous experience in student politics:** Outgoing clubs and societies officer

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To increase the popularity of the Student's Union  
 "I believe that I have the motivation to build up a strong Union"

\*\*\*\*\*



**Name:** Eamon Sheridan  
**Age:** 19  
**DIT Campus:** Bolton Street  
**Nomination:** Deputy President/ Welfare Officer -

Bolton Street  
**Current course of study:**  
 Architectural tech  
**Year:** First  
**Previous experience in student politics:** Experience in debating and took part in a one-year mentoring scheme.  
**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To improve the Student's Union by providing new seating and a more comfortable surrounding for all students.



**Name:** Joe Savage  
**Age:** 22  
**DIT Campus:** Mountjoy Square  
**Nomination:** Deputy President/Welfare - Aungier Street  
**Current course of study:**  
 Retail and Services Management.  
**Year:** Fourth  
**Previous experience in student politics:** Chairman of SRA, Class representative and Site Public Relations Officer

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To enable a seamless integration of Mountjoy Square into Aungier Street and become more in tune with the students.

"I am very approachable for the position of Welfare and I genuinely wish to improve the quality of life of the students I am representing".



**Name:** Keven Patrick Woods  
**Age:** 21  
**DIT Campus:** Mountjoy

Square  
**Nomination:** Site President/ Aungier Street  
**Current course of study:**  
 Management Studies  
**Year:** Third  
**Previous experience in student politics:** Currently the Equality Officer. Have worked closely with this year's site president on issues such as fair trade.  
**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To bring the SU back to the students and find out what they want instead of telling them what they want.

"I am very confident and adapt well to any situation. I am also a real people's person and I always have time for people."



**Name:** Lyndsey Jones  
**Age:** 21  
**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street  
**Nomination:** Deputy President/Welfare - Kevin Street.  
**Current course of study:** N/A  
**Year:** N/A

**Previous experience in student politics:** Have dealt with the Union for the last 2 years as Equality Officer and current Deputy President.

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 Started campaigns this year for facilities and grant increases and representation of students at home and abroad, intend to continue to rally for these issues, in the hope of a positive outcome by the end of the year.

"As I am the current Deputy President I know the ins and outs of the job, and how persistence and patience play a big part in getting what you want from the college. I've had ups and downs with the job this year but I love the job, love dealing with students. Despite the fact that it is a thankless job most of the time, it's the self-satisfaction that I get at the end of the day".



**Name:** Marc Murphy  
**Age:** 28  
**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street  
**Nomination:** Deputy President /Welfare Officer Kevin Street  
**Current course of study:**  
 Diploma in electrical & control systems.  
**Year:** Second.

**Previous experience in student politics:** Class representative for four years (92-96) during apprenticeship, and currently the Participations officer for Kevin Street.

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To improve the manner in which money is spent by the Student Union and in particular to reduce the ways in which it is lost by major charity events during the year. Also to reduce the money lost by ineffective day-to-day running of the Union, where sabbatical officers either do not turn to work or turn up late.

"I am a mature student and I feel that I can bring both my maturity and past work experience in both entertainments and management to the Union."



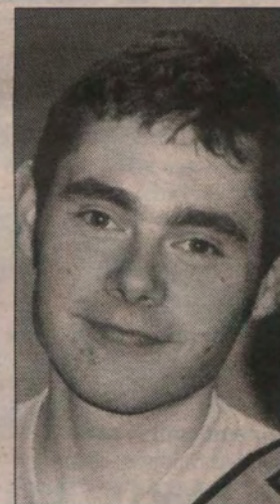
**Name:** Naoimh Mc Namee  
**Age:** 20  
**DIT Campus:** Bolton Street  
**Nomination:** Deputy President/Welfare Officer - Bolton Street  
**Current course of study:**  
 Auctioneering, Valuation and Estate agency  
**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:** Two years on the election supervisory committee, three years on the ents crew, DITSU councillor, chairperson of SRA, class representative, Usi congress delegate and best virgin speaker award, Eastern area conference delegate.

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 To extend the hours of the welfare office to cater for part-time students, to get students more involved in their Union, to establish a part-time entertainments team.

"I want to run for this position because I feel that I have the experience that the job requires.

"I feel that I have an excellent knowledge of the workings of DITSU and a great deal of valuable experience to offer the students of Bolton Street.



**Name:** Paul James Ross  
**Age:** 20  
**DIT Campus:** Aungier Street

**Nomination:** Site President/Aungier Street

**Current course of study:**  
 Business Studies  
**Year:** Third

**Previous experience in student politics:** Chairman and founder of DIT's first techno society.

**Major proposals if elected:**  
 A more approachable union i.e. to remove the closed shop mentality.

"I promise to give this position my utmost attention and I guarantee that I will work to the best of my abilities to ensure my objectives are achieved."

**Use your vote on March 13th and 14th**



## DIT STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS

## Part-time officers

**Name:** Alan Keane

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Participations Officer

**Current course of study:** Electrical & Control Engineering

**Year:** First (Repeat)

**Major proposals if elected:** Increased recognition for apprentices

"I'm taking up an issue which most are reluctant to recognise"

**Name:** Alan Mac Stiofáin

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Rathmines

**Nomination:** Irish Language Officer

**Current course of study:** Speech and drama

**Year:** First

**Previous experience in student politics:** Class representative

**Major proposals if elected:** To change and improve the Irish language and its place in college life, including culture.

"I have a distinct passion for the language and a desire to see its everyday usage".

**Name:** Amy Cahill

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Public Relations Officer

**Current course of study:** Applied Science - Biology

**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:** Head prefect and secretary in sixth year.

**Major proposals if elected:** To publicise student events and activities around the college and make students more aware of what happens at council.

"Because I have some experience with what is required from this position and I know I can do a good job."

**Name:** Bernard Coggins

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Bolton Street

**Nomination:** Equality officer

**Current course of study:** Transport engineering

**Year:** Second

**Major proposal if elected:** Equality

"For equal rights".

**Name:** Ciaran Bowe

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Rathmines

**Nomination:** Equality Officer

**Current course of study:**

Speech and Drama Studies

**Year:** First

**Major proposals if elected:** To take action on any incidents of discrimination on the Rathmines site.

"I don't back down when people discriminate against me, not that I'm stubborn, just a tad assertive."



Colin Saunders

**Name:** Colin Saunders

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Mountjoy Square/ Aungier Street

**Nomination:** Clubs and Societies officer

**Current course of study:** Management and Marketing

**Year:** First

**Previous experience in student politics:** Currently Clubs and Societies Officer and Class Representative. Member of the DITSU Council.

**Major proposals if elected:** The setting up of a debating society to rival that of Trinity College Dublin.

"I have previous experience and have a good understanding of the Union. I also have clear goals for the future."

**Name:** Fergal Connolly

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Equality Officer

**Current course of study:** Applied Science and Computers.

**Year:** First

**Previous experience in student politics:** Equality Officer 2001, Kevin Street, Participations Officer 2000 - 2001, class representative 1999 - 2000.

**Major proposals if elected:** To continue the work I started in DITSU last year. To try to make the Union more equal and open to all



Gary McDermott, Ciaran Bowe and Alan Mac Stiofáin

people regardless who they are.

"I have the experience to do the work. Two years as a part-time officer and one year as a class representative. I feel I still have a valuable input into the union to make it stronger and more student friendly."

**Name:** Francis Patrick Fox

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Bolton Street

**Nomination:** Clubs & Societies

**Current course of study:** Transport engineering/motor industry management

**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:** Irish language officer 00/01

**Major proposals if elected:** A greater awareness of the clubs and societies available

"I have a good knowledge of the Union and work well with and for other people".

**Name:** Gary Mc Dermott

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Clubs and Societies

**Current course of study:** Applied Science

**Year:** First

**Previous experience in student politics:** Unsuccessfully ran for entertainments officer

**Major proposals if elected:** A paintball society and debating as well as encouraging first years to get involved.

"I'm willing to get involved with anything and interested in many of the societies".

**Name:** Georgina Daly

**Age:** 18

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Equality Officer

**Current course of study:** Applied Science and Computing

**Year:** First

**Previous experience in student politics:** Elected Irish Language Officer 2001. Currently Class Representative.

**Major proposals if elected:** To make health issues be available to students via the SU and stop discrimination



Peter Bennett and Amy Cahill

in classes.

"I am about the importance of student views. I am not running for a popularity contest."



Jenny McGowran

**Name:** Jenny McGowran

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Mountjoy Square

**Nomination:** Entertainments Officer

**Current course of study:** Management & Marketing

**Year:** Third

**Previous experience of student politics:** Part-time officer 01/02

**Major proposals if elected:** To improve the entertainments in Aungier Street so that it will appeal to everyone in the college, and they will all be encouraged to participate.

"I'm the only girl running for elections in Aungier Street, so it will help balance the executive committee. I also have previous experience in the Student Union and I have great plans for the future of Aungier Street".

**Name:** Martin Ryan

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Aungier Street

**Nomination:** Public Relations Officer

**Current course of study:** Management

**Year:** Second

**Major proposals if elected:** A positive image for Aungier Street to be promoted to the public.

"I have an academic interest in the Public Relations area, which ensures my

commitment and enthusiasm".

**Name:** Nicola Cunningham

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Clubs and societies officer

**Current course of study:** Applied sciences

**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:** Class representative for the last two years and student councillor for the last year.

**Major proposals if elected:** To improve the communication link between the SU and the Clubs and Societies ensuring they are aware of their rights.

"I have been a member of the clubs and socs and I'm aware of the problems they face. I believe I can improve clubs and socs within Kevin Street".

**Name:** Peter Bennett

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Entertainments Officer

**Current course of study:** Electrical and control engineering

**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:** Karting Club President, Kevin Street. Class Representative.

**Major proposals if elected:** Have a wider selection of entertainments in the college "Because I'm brilliant. I feel I can provide a wider selection of entertainment i.e. anything other than the Palace every Wednesday."

**Name:** Philip Gannon

**Age:** 20

**DIT Campus:** Cathal



Nikki Cunningham  
Fergus O'Connolly  
and William Kinsella

Brugha Street

**Nomination:** Entertainments officer

**Current course of study:** Hospitality Management

**Year:** First

**Major proposals if elected:** More interaction between courses and years

"I feel I would be able to effectively liaise with the SU president and class representatives and to provide a better standard of social life for Cathal Brugha Street students."

**Name:** Róisín Lankford

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Kevin Street

**Nomination:** Irish Language Officer

**Current course of study:** Electrical and Control Systems Engineering

**Year:** Second

**Previous experience in student politics:** Formerly class representative, member of DITSU council and on the course committee for Electrical and Control Systems Engineering.

**Major proposals if elected:** Awareness of the Irish culture and language in DIT Kevin Street

"Because I have a fluency in Irish and wish to increase the love of our language at all levels in the college."

**Name:** William Kinsella

**Age:** 19

**DIT Campus:** Mountjoy Square

**Nomination:** Public Relations Officer

**Current course of study:** Management and Marketing

**Year:** First

**Previous experience in student politics:** Currently Public Relations Officer for DIT Mountjoy Square.

**Major proposals if elected:** To have at least six college publications. The introduction of a Rag King and Rag Queen during Rag Week. The creation of greater student involvement in the Student's Union through promotion of a greater number of events.

"I am experienced in the position as I am currently the PRO. I believe that I can be even more efficient in the position as I have seen the operation of the Union already this year."



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# DIT Independent

## RAG Week R.I.P?

THE loss of over Euro70,000 incurred by the RAG Ball is a massive source of embarrassment to DITSU, regardless of whether the night in question was enjoyable or not. The fact that only a sixth of the total tickets available for the night were sold statistically shows that the Ball was an unmitigated failure for the Union.

If the Ball, as publicised was the biggest single event of the DITSU year, then one could equate those who made the trip to the Point with only 15,000 supporters turning up for an All-Ireland Final.

One can only imagine the backlash that the GAA would receive for charging exorbitant prices for their showpiece event – were such a scenario to ever unfold, Croke Park would ensure that such a public relations disaster would never be repeated.

DITSU lost Eur45,000 on the Halloween Ball last year, an event purported to be a solo run on behalf of the then DITSU President. A united DITSU in 2002 contrived to lose Eur26,000 more as a collective unit than a 'lone assassin' managed last year.

The figures speak for themselves.

Did the Union honestly expect that students would flock in their droves to the Point at the end of a week when they have already spent more than they can afford and fork out Eur20 for a ticket? Clearly they did and therein lies the problem.

Less RAG Trip tickets were issued this year at the SU shops; clearly an attempt to get more students to go to the RAG Ball – again this tactic proved a failure.

The whole concept of RAG Week as students are currently familiar with needs to be addressed and an overhaul of the event is definitely required. 'RAG days' have been suggested as an alternative to this editor by figures close to the Union and surely this would be a more viable alternative.

With respect to the acts that performed at the Point, a headline act would surely have enticed more students to the most inaccessible venue in the capital.

Even the hosting of two RAG Balls in two more easily filled venues would have generated a better atmosphere and more money for charity.

With respect to this year's efforts, a little more homework needs to be done by the incoming DITSU Executive for RAG Week 2003 than this year's group came up with.

## USI's lazy referendum campaign

As USI has made voter registration a cornerstone of their policy during the current academic year, it was remarkable to see them formally engage in the campaign just a week before the poll on March 6th.

Regardless of the result, which will be known as this paper is published, President Richard Hammond's decision to make USI's position known to the student populous just seven days before voting is as remarkable as the myopia that seems to have afflicted the Irish student movement.

While this paper did its best to present both sides of the argument to its readers, similar publications were running veritable advertising features for certain aspects of the anti-abortion lobby in the weeks leading to the vote.

DITSU failed to take a stand on the issue – another remarkably ill advised decision.

And while this was going on, USI's chief was sitting on his hands while the Taoiseach refused to engage in a television debate on an issue he has said he is deeply affected by.

Our leading political figures and student representatives alike should be ashamed of the roles they played in the build-up to March 6th.

*It is the policy of the DIT Independent to correct any inaccuracies as soon as they occur. An corrections or clarifications will be printed in the next edition of the newspaper. It is also the policy of the DIT Independent to offer the right of reply to any person who feels aggrieved by comment or opinion contained within. Please forward any such comments in writing to the Editor. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Students' Union.*

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# Letters to the Editor

## Praise for DITSU RAG efforts

Dear Editor

I would like to discuss the recent RAG Ball in the Point Depot.

I would like to thank the DITSU Executive for running a brilliant show and congratulate them for all their hard work and effort that went into it. I was at it myself and I have to say that I enjoyed the night thoroughly.

Unfortunately though, the night was not a complete success, insofar as a loss was made. RAG Week this year stood for "Raising And Giving" - specifically to the Special Olympics which will take place in Ireland next year. It seems likely that less than 1,500 DIT Students held the same conviction to this worthy cause. They were rewarded though with a top class show.

Questions will now be asked of the whole venture, which is no bad thing. It could be said of last year's fiasco, that it was attributable to one person. However, the same cannot be said of this year. From the beginning, the decision was made by the Sabbaticals (Executive) of the Union to run the event. I'm sure however, that voices of discontent will rear their heads from within the Executive e.g. "I was against it from the beginning" etc.

Such is the nature of democracy however, that when a project is proposed and voted on, even those who may not fully agree with it help carry it out - usually with their objections taken into account and incorporated into the same. Therefore the Executive should not publicly split over the issue - as we ALL know what it can lead to...

Therefore, sabbaticals must take the backlash on the chin and not try to score points in the up coming elections. Any attempt to do so will be seen for what it really is - a pitiable electioneering tactic. Quite rightly we must examine on what pretences the decision was made to run the ball and how we can incorporate safeguards to ensure it cannot happen again. After the decision was made however, I personally cannot fault the Executive. It is a shame more people didn't see and witness the hard work that went into the event.

I personally think that the right decision was made to run the Ball and not pull it at the last minute - we could not sustain such a mishap again and it at least proved that we are capable of running such an event effectively, even if it was only to 1,500 party goers. Finally, maybe all those who will criticise the event could identify whether they were actually at the Ball before launching an attack on the Union?

Regards,

Jarlath Molloy

## Part-time student discrimination

Dear Editor

An EGM of DITSU Council was recently held to discuss the impending move of Mountjoy Square students to Aungier Street next year.

This presented a constitutional problem - how would the business students vote in the upcoming DITSU Sabbatical and Part-Time elections? The obvious answer was that the 1,000 students concerned should be included in the Aungier Street electorate. In fairness I personally cannot recall such a black and white issue ever being placed before Council before. And yet of course this proved not to be the case.

On the night the motion for Constitutional reform was compounded by another motion. We were also told that Mountjoy Square and Cathal Brugha Street should mutually lose their Deputy Presidents/ Welfare Officers. In turn these two Sabbatical positions should be reduced to one position and that a single Deputy President/Welfare Officer should serve both campuses.

This is an issue that was extremely emotive for both sites concerned, and an issue that deserved discussion in its own right. It's one that I feel should not have been tagged on to the coat tails of another vital amendment the one that had to be made that night.

I would like to support a point made by Overall President Marguerite Fitzpatrick that we all need to look to the future of Grangegorman and the obvious reduction of Sabbatical Officers that will entail. But as the Participations Officer in Kevin Street I wish to criticise her

conduct on the night. On behalf on the part time and apprentice students I will go as far as saying she has discriminated against them.

We were given a set of figures of student numbers for September 2000 throughout the DIT system in justification of the loss of the Sabbatical Officer. I will here print those figures (please note there will be a shift of 1000 students from Mountjoy Square to Aungier Street). Aungier Street 1,400, Bolton Street 2,250, Kevin Street 2,100, Rathmines 500, Cathal Brugha Street 1050 and Mountjoy Square 2,000 You may already have noticed my frustration Where are the figures for the Part-time and Block-Release (Apprentice) students? This point was made at the meeting and at this point I would like to quote the response from Ms Fitzpatrick: "trust me, I have seen the overall figures directly, and the trend of part-time/apprentice figures to whole time numbers are directly proportional throughout all the campuses; I really don't see what the problem is?"

Ms Fitzpatrick I'll tell you what the problem is; your figures are wrong, you have obviously never seen the figures before, and you have intentionally mislead Council!

Although this academic years figures are currently being compiled the correct student numbers for Kevin Street are - Whole time students 2,080, Apprentice \*523 and Part time 1015 [\* this is the enrolled figure for the Christmas block-release, but I have checked with the Church Lane Administration and this will be the typical figure for the next two

## RAG week - will DITSU ever learn?

Dear Editor,

Well, after last year's episode of the Point, it seems like history has repeated itself. Do these Students' Union officers ever learn? After all the surveys and questionnaires that were conducted, only 2,000 tickets were sold this year.

The Point itself cost close to 35,000 and we are not even taking into account of the performers' fees. I understand an event cancellation insurance policy was taken out, but I also understand that it did not cover the lack of ticket sale. We were supposed to raise funds for charity but does that mean that our students have to suffer along the way?

I wonder how much of the students' money have they lost and how will our Overall President justify her actions?

Yours with great concern,

T. (wished to remain anonymous)

## Hyland's efforts deserve our support

A chara,

I recently read the article, "China Challenge" written by Ciara O'Connor and published in the February edition of the DIT Independent.

The cause for which Adam Hyland is trying to raise money, is one in which we, the Sinn Fein Cumann of DIT feel very strongly about. It is true that the issue of homelessness in Dublin, and indeed in the country's other cities, is a serious problem and we in fact believe is not being dealt with in the manner in which it demands. It has been agreed upon that any fundraising activity that our

cumann engages in will see half the proceeds go to help Adam in his expedition. I would appreciate if you would pass the message onto Mr. Hyland, and let him know that if there is any other way in which we can aid him, we will do our best.

Go raibh maith agat.

Sean MacDiarmuid

Sinn Fein Cumann, DIT Bolton Street.

giving a calculated total of 1,569] .

This gives rise to some interesting statistical figures for the Kevin Street campus alone: the given figure needed to be corrected by a margin of 222%, and also the ratio of whole time to part-time / Apprentice students is 1: 1.24. We have more apprentice and part time students than full-time.

There is no overall trend in figures, so how can Mountjoy Square and Rathmines have no apprentice students while in Kevin Street they compose over one third of our student body! Which considering the discussion on a combined Deputy President/Welfare Officer for Mountjoy Square and Cathal Brugha Street the apprentice population has a direct effect.

Finally I would like to remind our Overall President of a very basic principle; we the officers in DITSU are elected to defend, promote and organise the educational, economic, political, social, cultural and welfare interests of ~ our students in DIT. And as there are only three elected Executive Officers who deal directly with the interests of the huge number of Apprentice and part-time students that pass through the gates of DIT annually it is vital that the Sabbatical Officers of the Union especially the Overall President fulfil that duty also.

Marc Murphy

Participations Officer -Kevin Street

All letters are subject to word reduction due to space constraints



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# Casino royale

*Why choose Las Vegas, Monte Carlo or Bray when you can find some hard core gambling on your own door step?*

**Laurence Mackin** savours the highs and lows of a long night in Dublin's answer to the Golden Mile



The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table

**A**lthough Las Vegas may be all glitz and glamour, Dublin's equivalent is not so extravagant. Montague Street is home to two of Dublin's private members clubs where the privileged few can spend their life savings on a game of cards. Being the debonair playboy that I am, I decided it was time to get a piece of the action at the Montague Leisure Club.

It's 2AM and everywhere else is deserted. The bouncer shows us in and hands us forms to fill in, to certify us all as temporary members. We duly fill in false names and forwarding addresses for the junk mail.

The entrance hall looks like a small hotel lobby. Big desk, security camera, fake cheesy Romanesque statue in the corner, serving as an ashtray. Once the formalities are out of the way we make our way into the arena.

My dreams of neon lights, Elvis music, hookers and free alcohol are dashed on the rocks of a room Laura Ashley would be proud of. Seven tables of either blackjack or roulette divide the floor. Each table has a small huddle of gamblers, quietly staking their chips, overseen by a croupier and a supervisor seated on a high chair, like an umpire in tennis.

The atmosphere is at best subdued with the light background music broken only by the quiet murmur of voices and the innocent click of the roulette table.

I am in completely unexplored territory, with virtually no back-up. There

is a strict no alcohol rule, and although there are free drinks you will not find a drop of illicit substance for blood or money.

The nearest thing I could find to a seasoned gambler has attached himself to a nearby blackjack table, and I follow suit. Quickly tiring of the spectator sport, in the pure interests of journalism and absolutely nothing to do with greed I hand over my 20 euro. The croupier slots it into a hole and hands me a pile of chips. Let the games begin.

Blackjack is a deceptively difficult game to master and I have no idea what I am doing. I look around the table but there is no Mavis Beacon character to show me how to take money off the English girl firing cards at me and unmercilessly asking me questions to which I have no answers.

Everything about the casino is a cliché. The good-looking girls in the black dresses dealing out cards at lightning speed, the almost complete absence of female gamblers in the room, (there are about three women to 40 men at this early hour, the entire room permeates machismo).

In an attempt to ingratiate myself with the atmosphere I butt into every cliché there is. Forsaking all else, I think only of money and the cards on the table in front of me. In a pathetic attempt to seem like I know what I'm doing, I start using the most insignificant movement possible to indicate another card or a stick. It reminds me of torturous childhood days at cattle markets, watching old men barter over a fine flock of heifers with a flick

of the Farmer's Journal. Despite this, due to what could only be divine intervention, I start winning. I'm not just breaking even. My lonely 20 euro rashly thrown into the rabbit hole has come back from the dead, Jesus-like. And it's brought a few apostles.

Half an hour and 20 euro later, things are looking sweet. I save my original stake and set it aside, vowing not to use it. I send its little blue chip brethren off into the battlefield and pretty soon they've come back with some POW's. I'm up to 30 euro, then 40.

*'My lonely 20 Euro rashly thrown into the rabbit hole has come back from the dead, Jesus-like. And it's brought a few apostles'*

My combat manoeuvres peak at around 45 euro, and the battle swings back and forth for a while. For about 15 minutes I sustain heavy casualties, but just before I

call for reinforcements, I'm back on track and looking set to regain all lost territory. The problem here is that you rarely see cash. You are playing with chips and the whole experience seems somewhat unreal.

Most of the gamblers seem completely indifferent to the monopoly money they throw on the table. One punter muscles in beside me and throws a single 50 euro chip down. He doubles it to 100 euro and lets it ride.

It doubles again and he decides to try once more. Bad move, and the dealer collects 200 euro.

He merely shrugs and moves off to another table. Most people go into casinos with a set amount that they can lose. Only the very good, the very foolish and the very desperate go in with a set amount which they must win.

My best poker face betrays my elation and adrenaline. But despite my best efforts, I can't seem to break this infernal barrier.

Every attempt to breach the 50 euro mark is met with a curt reply of "21" from the croupier. I muster my forces and decide on one last desperate rush. But then the field of battle changes irrevocably.

The croupier leaves the table to be replaced by a young man, also from London. He shuffles the deck and my partner on crime strikes up a conversation with him. He starts telling us about the different casinos he has worked in around the world and it's difficult to see what attracted him to the dim lights of Dublin.

When asked if he sometimes feels guilty, he shrugs. "I'm not forcing anyone to throw their money away". I realise my puny stake is insignificant when my new best friend tells me he once knew a man who lost £100,000. Five nights in a row.

The dealer has obviously been around the blackjack block, so I figure he must be damn good at the game. "No", he replies, a judicious glint in his eye, "I never gamble". I feel like I should have learnt some sort of lesson at this stage.

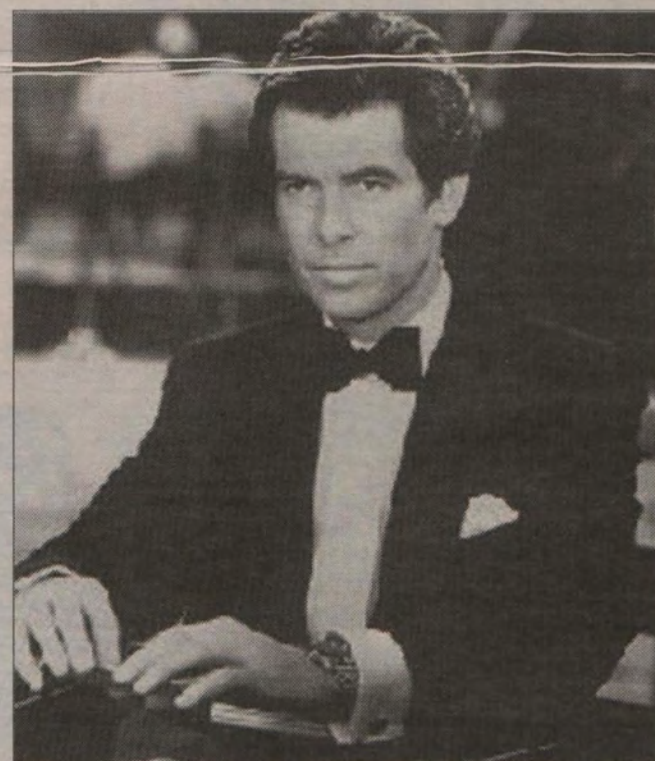
Things have gone from great to worse. The battlefield bodes ill and my reserves are considerably depleted. I haven't been watching the cards and I'm in dire straits.

All my treacherous blue

chips have surrendered and I send in the last of my light wallet brigade on a rescue mission. Desperation clouds my judgement and my high hopes of Bond girls and martinis by the pool are swallowed whole by a somewhat sympathetic croupier with an "I told you so" look on his face.

My fool's paradise has burned to the ground. I decide to call it a night, and my only regret is that I have no money to tip the dealer. I step outside and Camden Street is deserted, save for some friendly pigeons. I have lost in a big way tonight, yet I haven't felt this good in ages.

The only thing I know for certain is that I will have my revenge on that damned casino. Probably next weekend.



Laurence Mackin cashing his chips. Honestly.



# An Olympic Opportunity



Irish athletes at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2001 in Alaska. Picture courtesy of Special Olympics Ireland

At this stage it must be common knowledge that the Special Olympics will be held in Ireland for the first time in the summer of 2003. However, what may not be so well known is the fact that a trial run for the event will be held this year in various locations throughout Dublin. This test run is the Irish National Games held by Special Olympics Ireland. These games are held every four years, but the difference this year is that not alone will Irish athletes be competing, but a further 300 European athletes with learning difficulties will be joining them, as the potential venues and teams for next year's World Games are put through their paces.

If you hadn't heard of the National Games before, you may be amazed at how big the event actually is. 1600 athletes will compete in nine sports, in 11 venues over five days. The total cost of staging the Games is around £750 000, which comes from a number of different sources - the Irish Sports Council, the Department of Health and Children, the event's primary sponsor, Eircom, and various other

*Will you have some time to spare this June? If you've got a few extra hours, Special Olympics Ireland needs your help. Janice Gaffey spoke to Pat Costello, the Director of Special Olympics Ireland*

sponsors and fundraising activities.

Special Olympics Ireland caters for athletes with learning disabilities throughout the country. There is year-round training for the athletes, as well as regular competitions. According to Pat Costello, the Director of Special Olympics Ireland, "there are about 270 Special Olympics clubs around the country. This is a legitimate sporting organisation, and our athletes train as hard as any others". The Irish Special Olympics Team for the 2003 World Games will be selected at this year's National Games, so there's extra pressure on the athletes this year. The fact that the Games will be held in Ireland next year also means that the competition is more accessible for Irish athletes than it had been in previous years. "This is

the first year in the history of the Special Olympics that the Games have been held outside the USA. Consequently, there will be more Irish athletes competing this year than ever before, partly due to the fact that the range of sports has increased. In previous years, the Irish team would have had about 70 athletes, but this year there could be up to 300 competing", added Mr. Costello.

Although the excitement of hosting the World Special Olympics threatened to overshadow this year's National Games, Mr. Costello believes that "the athletes have refocused on this year's competition, probably due in part to the fact that Team Ireland for 2003 will be selected at it". The forthcoming events are also

beginning to receive increased attention from the public and the media. "In general the media coverage has been very positive, there has been great support and interest," said Mr. Costello. He dismissed the infamous Mary Ellen Synon article about Special Olympics athletes as "controversial, but seen by most people as a personal opinion".

The increased attention from the media will help the organisers of the National Games to impress upon the general public how important their help will be in staging the Games. "Special Olympics Ireland couldn't survive without volunteers. For the National Games this year we will need 5 000 volunteers. For the Olympics next year we need 30 000, although not all of them will be Irish, a lot of them will travel with the visiting teams. But for this year we need people who can spare some time, be it a week or a few hours". There are a wide variety of jobs for volunteers, including Games Officials, chaperones for the various teams, venue organisation, parking attendants,

signposting, security and medical aides. With the exception of the medical attendants, no previous experience is needed. "We will provide full training for any volunteers, and anyone who has any free time can approach us, we will consider any offer of help" said Mr. Costello. Ideas for fundraising are also appreciated.

This year's Games will take place in a number of venues in the Dublin area, including DCU, UCD, St. Patrick's College in Maynooth, Blanchardstown and Ringsend. Events will kick off on June 19th with a ceremony in Parnell Park, and will conclude in the RDS on June 23rd. If you fancy doing something different after the exams, Pat Costello and the team at Special Olympics Ireland would be delighted to hear from you. "We need to get more young people on board, and we will work around their schedules".

If you are interested in helping out at the National Games, contact Special Olympics Ireland at 01-8823972 or e-mail [info@specialolympics.ie](mailto:info@specialolympics.ie).

## Mugabe's democratic deficit

When Robert Mugabe first came to power in Zimbabwe, the country was still a one party state, with no opposition. According to Tawanda Gono, there was a positive attitude to Mugabe at that point in time. "Robert Mugabe was voted into power by the majority of the people, you know, they expected that he would do good for the country. But this is just it, you can never know with anything in the beginning whether something is wrong or right but, by and large, I would say people had faith in him and trusted him with running the country in a transparent fashion."

However, while that may have been the case in the beginning, the situation began to decline during Mugabe's rule. "Mugabe's been the person in power for the past twenty years. Personally I would say after about ten years people were beginning to notice signs of corruption within the country and noticing that things

*The forthcoming Presidential elections in Zimbabwe will be the first in 20 years to present any genuine opposition to the current leader, Robert Mugabe. The election campaigns have been fraught with tension and external observers have been expelled from the country. Deirdre Ni Cheallaigh spoke to Tawanda Gono, a young Zimbabwean living in Ireland, about Mugabe's reign and the upcoming elections.*

were not as good as they were in the previous ten years. These were just signs that, you know, something was amiss." Tawanda explained that the first discrepancies people noticed were economic.

"First off, you know, the currency was almost at par with the British pound. And then things began to become more expensive, these were basic commodities. That was just some of the initial signs that

people were noticing. That things were not as good as they had been during the previous years." Although people denounced corruption, that was as far as it went. "People have spoken against it but really never taken it any further than just words."

One of the major issues in Zimbabwe throughout the past 20 years has been land ownership. "Land distribution has been promised to the people since 1980

and from what I know personally, seeing that my own brother worked for Land and Resettlement, they tried to redistribute land but the whole thing fell apart because eventually most of these farms were given to people in government and never really to the people who were supposed to be settled."

Another issue has been that of compensation of war veterans. Tawanda explained that "it's hard to distinguish whether you could call a person a war veteran. But, by and large, I would say that the criteria the government was using was people who have fought for the attainment of independence." Corruption has been rife in the awarding of compensation to these veterans. "With compensation it was actually a requirement for anyone who was a war veteran to go to a doctor, to be looked at; see if they had any disabilities either from the war or anything of that nature. But this was again badly misused, you

know people were using it in a corrupt fashion. They were going most probably, to one particular doctor. He would give a person up to sixty, even up to a hundred per cent disabilities and yet these are people who can still do everyday chores you know? The very people who, I would even say, are on the rampage on the streets of Harare at this particular moment."

Tawanda is hopeful of a positive outcome from the elections. "It's not only myself, I'd say the population of the country would actually just be happy if a new government is voted into power. Zimbabwe is a country that has taken severe battering from mismanagement, being terribly stolen from, plundered from. We even supported wars that we had nothing to do with for many years so, if anything, it has suffered terribly. And you know change is not something that is going to come overnight but at least these would be footsteps in the right direction."



# A Labour of Love

**I** can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in public issues," said Joan Burton, former Minister of State and currently representing the constituents of Dublin west in local government.

Now in her thirtieth year of Labour party membership, Ms Burton reflected on her reasons for joining the major party of the left when speaking to the DIT Independent. "I joined the Labour party in the context of Ireland joining the E.E.C. which I was very opposed to," she said. "I saw it as a very big loss of sovereignty." As a native of the inner city, Joan felt compelled to engaging in the political process given that the capital faced an accommodation crisis during that period. "In Dublin the really big issue was housing because the housing situation was just appalling and the quality of people's accommodation was appalling. Acting as an active member of the party as opposed to forwarding herself for elected representation initially, Joan's role in the party changed some two years into her involvement.

"Noel Browne was having one of his continuous difficulties with the Labour party. He had been meant to represent some branch at the Labour party's annual conference in Cork, but for various reasons, ended up not being able to do so. I was involved in this branch and a number of people asked me to arrange for him to be delegate of the branch. And of course I was delighted."

Browne was a man ahead of his time in Irish politics - the instigator of the ill-fated Mother and Child scheme in the first multi-party government led by John A. Costello from 1948-51, a policy which would lead to his resignation as Health Minister after some negative noises from the Catholic hierarchy.

It was through working with the late Dr Browne that Joan met a man called Pat Carroll, who was to work as Director of Elections for the Waterford-born Browne. "At the next election, Pat ended up being nominated as a candidate for my area (Oxmanstown Road, in Cabra) and he got elected. About a year later, we got married." She added with a grin, "politics is not all about slogging - there are interesting times as well."

As well as representing Dublin West in Dublin City Council, Joan Burton lectures business and journalism students in DIT Aungier Street, a position that she immensely enjoys.

An excellent Leaving Certificate result saw the young Joan rewarded with a scholarship to University College Dublin, where she studied Commerce and English. "I was the first person from my school to go to university and probably the first person from Oxmanstown Road to do so."

She noted that while socio-economic constraints have improved the situation for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, the current student population still reflects the difficulties for aspiring

*Aungier Street lecturer Joan Burton is preparing for another general election campaign in a bid to regain her former Dáil seat. Alana Doogan caught up with the Labour councillor as the May poll looms*

students from areas of economic difficulty. "In the 1950's and 60's the people who went to college were the better off. There was no points system and it was just a matter of having the money, or for a very small number of people like me, getting scholarships. Though nowadays you look at the statistics and the number of working class kids who go to third level is still quite tiny."

By the time the obstacle of university education had been successfully cleared, Joan committed herself to Labour and was a noted member of the party's anti-coalition extreme left. By the advent of the 1980's, she was honorary secretary of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, "before it became fashionable". By 1983, following her husband's resignation from Dublin Corporation, Joan and Pat moved to Tanzania, where both



Acting as an active member of the party as opposed to forwarding herself for elected representation initially, Joan's role in the party changed some two years into her involvement

back from Tanzania. It's a one third Muslim country, where obviously women's rights are traditionally circumscribed. Women are not terribly advanced, and the country was dirt poor, although it's a lovely country, but nonetheless they have the right to divorce and remarry. I

strongly that more women should be pushed along as candidates," she said. "I then found myself having to become a candidate in order to supply a quota of women. I wasn't madly enthusiastic and I had quite a seminal experience, in that as soon as I became a candidate,

her father and stepmother living in nearby Dublin West (the country's most famous plot of political land thanks to Prisoner 6409 in Mountjoy), Joan decided to preach her political gospel in a new neck of the capital's woods.

The experience garnered as part of Mary Robinson's Presidential election team in 1990 enhanced her reputation within the party and locally and in the space of two years became a Dublin City Councillor, a Teachta Dála and a Minister of State (including a stint at Foreign Affairs).

By the end of what she dubbed "the Spring tide" of Labour popularity with the punters in 1997, Joan had lost her Dáil seat.

"I was very unfortunate...in that I got about 13 per cent of the vote but still didn't get a seat. It was really to do with how Fianna Fáil split the vote and the fact that they got PD transfers. A very large PD transfer elected Liam Lawlor and Brian Lenihan and in the context of what's happened, it's ironic."

The conduct of the disgraced Deputy Lawlor could provide Joan with the votes of many disillusioned voters in Dublin West. Given that a speech she delivered in 1993 led to her fighting 43 separate libel writs which highlighted several of the major issues which are now the subject of the Flood Tribunal, Joan Burton has a realistic chance of a return to chambers in Leinster House.

DIT's loss could well be the Dáil's gain.



*"The conduct of the disgraced Liam Lawlor could provide Burton with the votes of many disillusioned Dublin West voters"*

worked in the University of Dar Es Salaam. "We left Ireland around the time of the first abortion referendum, which was very divisive and horrible." With the latest vote just behind us, Joan commented that the 1983 campaign "was politics at its absolute lowest". Three years passed and both Joan and Pat decided to come home. "I had a very weird experience when I was coming

thought, I'm coming back to Ireland after working on a development project in Tanzania, and I said to myself: 'which is the more backward country, Ireland or Tanzania?'

The return to Ireland saw Joan's re-engagement of activities with Labour, where she became an active member of Labour's Women's Council. "I felt quite

people decided they didn't want me as a candidate. Probably, if people had thrown open their arms and said 'please be a candidate' I wouldn't have been terribly interested. The fact that I ran into a certain amount of opposition about being a candidate actually made me put my foot down and be one."

Her first campaign in Dublin Central was not a success, but with



# J1 time again

By Debbie Flood

Going on a J1 is the definitive rite of passage for every student. You will find out more about yourself and the people you go with in those short months than you would in a lifetime. All the planning and precautions fly right out the airplane window as soon as you touch down on Yankee soil. Everyone goes on a J1 looking for something, be it fun and adventure or work experience and a holiday.

I had just turned 19 and wanted independence away from the safety net of home. A group of us headed to New York, and organised a house on Staten Island before we left. It was a comfort knowing that I wasn't homeless when I arrived.

The first two weeks in New York were tough. The heat was unbearable and only five out of the 20 in the house had secured a job.

It was depressing coming home each night after spending hours begging for jobs and returning home with nothing.

After twelve days my boyfriend and I left New York for Cape Cod, a coastal area in Boston. It was a huge

difference from the massive skyscrapers and bustling urban jungle we had left behind.

We secured jobs in a small pizzeria in a quiet town on the Cape and our accommodation came with the job. Two friends followed us down and began sharing our cramped one-bedroom cottage.

The cottage was a bedroom, living room and kitchen rolled into one room and the shower was outside. The area we were in was very upmarket and the rent was high. After bags, beds and clothes were moved in, there was barely any room left for us!

My boyfriend and I worked together in the pizzeria while the other two lads found jobs nearby. Expect to work long hours, six days a week when you're on a J1.

Employers prey on J1 students to fill their low-paid jobs. I worked two jobs, six days a week and at one stage my boyfriend had three jobs. We were the norm rather than the exception.

The bus service in the town was non-existent and it was a necessity to have some

means of transport. We invested in second-hand bikes from an elderly mechanic.

I cycled everywhere – to the beach, to the shops and to the laundry.

After some experience, I managed to cycle expertly while holding a basket of laundry as well as bags of shopping.

The best bit was cycling home from the local pub.

More than once in my drunken state, I ended up in a bush, or falling off the bike altogether.

We were a good ten miles away from the biggest town on the Cape, Hyannis, so for entertainment and drink we would venture to a nearby pub which looked like a small run-down shed from the outside.

This legend of a bar served pitchers of beer for five dollars and didn't examine our dodgy fake driving licenses.

It's worth noting that Americans go to the pub dressed casually and don't go to get locked. The only people I saw leaving the pub in a bad state were my friends



After twelve days my boyfriend and I left New York for Cape Cod, a coastal area in Boston. It was a huge difference from the massive skyscrapers and bustling urban jungle we had left behind

or the other Irish students there. The beach was a minute away from the cottage and I would regularly visit it before work to top up my tan. The weather was generally

good, but when it rained it flooded.

At times like that I would be a prisoner in my little cottage, with no TV and forced to listen to the same

ten CDs for the zillionth time.

The weeks and months flew, and by the time I touched down in Dublin Airport, it felt like it was all a dream.

## Why not to do the J1

There are those for whom the J1 is the best thing since white sliced. And then there's another school of thought which regards the J1 as being about as appealing as a summer in Sing-Sing. Based on the experiences of one and the opinions of another, Aoife Stokes and Janice Gaffey compiled a list of reasons to avoid the J1 like the plague that it is.

1. Chances are that you won't make any money, or at least no more than you would have if you had worked closer to home. A significant number of returning J1-ers don't have the price of a pint of plain when they land on Irish soil, and count themselves lucky if they break even and can repay the bank/parents/Jimmy-the-Nose.

2. The reasonable likelihood of being arrested if you're under 21 and attempting to get drunk on a fake ID. It's illegal to drink in the US if you're under 21, and if the President's daughters can be done for it, you can too.

Generally those using fake ID (or real ID belonging to someone else) are caught, unless you frequent only the dodgiest emporium in the neighbourhood. In which case, ID is the least of your worries.

3. If the plan for the summer is to immerse yourself in American culture, the J1 is not necessarily the way to go. The areas where the majority of Irish J1 students end up are flooded with other Irish J1 students, and most J1 students end up in a bit of an Irish ghetto, generally living, working and socialising with other J1-ers. And where's the Jay-1-sus fun in that?

4. This won't apply to everyone, but the Irish are a wee bit sensitive to the sun, and even if you've got a free hand with the Ambre Solaire, you're still at risk of sunstroke. Given that a huge amount of J1-ers head for beach areas and the humid east coast, it genuinely could happen, and bear in mind that if you don't have medical insurance, many American hospitals won't treat you.

5. If you're fond of life's little luxuries, then the J1 is not for you.

The living conditions are likely to resemble an activity centre hostel in the West of Ireland, with anything up to 12 people sharing a two-bedroom apartment, and

## Is it all it's cracked up to be? Eight reasons not to do a J1

paying \$100 a week for the privilege. Be prepared to find the bed you're paying through the nose for occupied by other random individuals at any given time, and not in that good way.

Similarly with any food you may bring into the establishment – just because you bought it doesn't mean it's yours.

6. Speaking of food, it may be worth pointing out at this juncture that several J1-ers spend three months living out of McDonald's or Burger King, with a few taking a cultural leap and progressing to Wendy's. (Note that this is not a good thing.)

7. Not only will you have to deal with ubiquitous phrases such as "Have a nice day" or "My name is Brad and I'll be your waiter", but you'll be expected to use them if you get any kind of service industry job.

8. Finally, remember that despite growing up under the impression that Americans love the Irish, IT'S NOT TRUE!

J1 students are regarded by many Americans in much the same way as a suburban bus-load of Spanish students are in Ireland.

Employers do not love you, and if they do it's only because they see you as slave labour. Fair enough, if you're waiting tables, the customers may like you, but they'll also ask offensive questions about the war back home, or whether or not you know Paddy-Joe O'Shea-Kennedy from Knocknabally.

(The answer is yes, you know him well, and he's a great man. Otherwise you will have to recite your familial history in case you know someone related to him.)

So if you're heading off on a J1, the best of luck. Chances are that the only way you'll be able to tell the difference between your three months in America and your seven months in Rathmines will be the weather.

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# Prepare for Xmas all over again



Only time will tell whether Xbox can establish itself in Ireland against the hugely popular Sony Playstation 2

By Jamie McCormick

Microsoft are very well known as a developer of some excellent games in recent years. Names come to mind like Age of Empires or the Flight Simulation series. On the 14th of March, their first foray into console gaming will be launched in Ireland – the Microsoft Xbox.

The console has been greeted warmly in the US when it launched in November last year, and quite the opposite to what some people thought, it has shown that Microsoft can pull off quite a lot with a bit of effort (and \$500 million to spend marketing it worldwide).

Having played the console itself, I can tell you that it is impressive. Physically it is larger and bulkier than the Playstation 2, and has a controller that takes quite a while to get used to. On paper, it is about twice as powerful as the Playstation 2, offering gamers plenty of room to manoeuvre in the future.

It also features a built-in hard drive, allowing games to be much larger than before with little if any loading, and is ready for the launch of broadband internet services whenever NTL gets around to it.

Don't be fooled though, the console is a games console, not a computer, and you will not be able to surf the Internet through it. When the service gets launched in

Ireland you will be able to play in Internet leagues that are being set up for the hit games. Also those of you who are hoping to use the Xbox as a DVD player will be disappointed. Although it does allow DVD playback, you will have to buy an additional peripheral to activate the feature.

The console is very much a multiplayer gamers dream. Each console can plug four controllers into the front, and on top of that, you can also network up to four machines for multiplayer feasts.

The launch title Halo supports this, allowing up to sixteen players on four televisions to fight it out to the death in deathmatch mode, or team up for a more tactical game. When the Internet services become available, this will be further extended.

The console launches on Thursday March 14th around the country. Weighing in at an expected price of £479, it may be a little too hefty for most students.

But for those of you who will be fortunate enough to land yourself one of the consoles within launch, you will be very well looked after. Microsoft has learned from the mistakes of other console launches.

While others and most notably Nintendo have launched consoles with some great

games, there tended to be a drought of titles for a number of months after.

This is not seemingly the case with the Xbox as Microsoft have announced an impressive line-up of titles for the launch period. On the day, twenty titles should be available. These will include the much anticipated and excellent first person shooter Halo, graffiti hit Jet Set Radio Future, Project Gotham Racing, Dead or Alive 3 and Tony Hawks Pro Skater 3.

There have also been a host of great titles announced for the first three months of the console's European life including Samurai title Genma Ominusha, Crash Bandicoot, Championship Manager, Shrek, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Fifa World Cup and Spiderman. These games are expected to sell at around £64.99.

The official launch of the console takes place in Virgin Megastores on Aston Quay, and will feature an Xmas theme (for those of you who put off Christmas presents to get it). Santa will feature giving free presents to the first hundred to get an Xbox, and there will be Game Pods over the store to allow gamers to taste what games are on offer.

Only time will tell whether Xbox can establish itself in Ireland against the hugely popular Sony Playstation 2, but with the line-up that the console has going for it, it will be an interesting year!

**IrishPlayer**.com  
**gamezone**

**Game Title: Headhunter**

**Format: Playstation 2**

**Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment Europe**

**Rating: 15+**

Sega's Headhunter arrives on the Playstation 2 to take on stealth action titles. But how does it fair? Not too badly actually. The game sees you as Jack Wade, the #1 Headhunter working for the Anti-Crime Network (ACN). But things change drastically. Your boss, Christopher Stern has been killed, and you wake up in a hospital bed to find out that even more has gone wrong. Not only have you lost your licence to Headhunt and your job, but you have also lost your memory. So working for Angela Stern is the only choice you have to find out who killed the ACN chief, and find out what happened to your memory along the way.

The game is a mix of action/adventure and stealth. When you begin the game, you will need to earn a licence to hunt down wanted felons from LEILA, the Agency that oversees your profession. Having lost your original top licence, you have to start from scratch and work your way up the ranks again in order to get the clearance you need to hunt down your target.

While there are only a couple of missions for you to complete, there is a good amount of challenge to be had. Increasing your LEILA licence allows you access to better weapons, and you'll have to earn the skill points you need to get them by speeding around on a motorbike. The rest of the game is action based, with plenty of enemies for you to take out. There are also some action based puzzles in the game and sections that require stealth.

Graphically, the game is quite good, with plenty of detail on both characters and the environment. The sound is excellent, with the score recorded by the London Session Orchestra, and the controls are easy enough to get to grips with. Look out for the ABCBS reports too! It's not Metal Gear Solid, but it has an interesting storyline and is fun to play. Rent it first if you're not convinced.

**Game Title: Maximo: Ghosts of Glory**

**Format: Playstation 2**

**Publisher: Capcom Europe**

**Rating: 11+**

Capcom have released Maximo, a title that takes quite a lot from the classic titles Ghouls'n'Ghosts and Ghosts'n'Goblins. You take on the role of Maximo, a knight who has returned from a distant war to find out that Achilles has usurped his throne. Not only that, but his love interest has been captured and is being held hostage.

Achilles has harnessed the power of the underworld after creating a huge Drill, freeing the spirits of the dead and placing them under his control. When Maximo confronts him, Achilles kills him using his newfound power. Maximo wakes up faced by the Grim Reaper who strikes a deal with him; his life back in return for the destruction of the Drill which will guarantee his job security.

In the game, you will have to proceed towards the tower where Achilles is encamped. Along the way, you will have to battle your way through hordes of beasts, ranging from skeletons and undead zombies right through to ghosts and even sorcerers that turn you either into an old man or a baby. You also have plenty of keys to find, needed to unlock the gates and treasure chests that scatter the land. After every few levels, you will also be faced by a giant boss.

Graphically, the game is great. The environments look great and have plenty of secrets hidden around them, while both Maximo and the other characters in the game are excellently created. The sound is very good too, with an old-style soundtrack to back up the action and a limited amount of very well spoken speech. The controls are very easy to get the hang of, and as you progress through the game you will learn new skills.

Maximo is good fun. Although it only contains about 25 stages and not the hardest game around, it's good old-fashioned fun. If you're fed up with gory hack and slash titles, or want a fun and interesting 3D platform game, Maximo is the game for you.

**Game Title: Medal of Honour: Allied Assault**

**Format: PC CDROM**

**Publisher: Electronic Arts**

**Rating: 15+**

Medal of Honour has been the most popular first person shooter series on the Playstation, and it has made the transition to the PC with style. The hugely popular World War 2 title sees you as Lieutenant Mike Powell, a special forces soldier during the Allied invasion of Europe. You will take on six overall missions during the course of the war and include France and North Africa.

The game is very authentic, featuring authentic locations from actual battlefields during the retaking of Europe, and separate authentic weapon arsenals for both sides. The game also re-enacts the opening sequence of Saving Private Ryan, with every detail from the film recreation included, only that you are really in the action this time around.

The graphics are great, with detail compromised a little to allow for large, open stages. The sound is also excellent, with military music matching the mood very well. The sound is also excellent, with great sound effects and plenty of well acted speech. The controls will be familiar to anyone who has played a First Person Shooter before, and if you can get it to work over the college network, multiplayer is excellent with both team and deathmatch modes.

You do need a fairly decent PC to get this working (minimum 450Mhz, 128MB Ram and a decent 3D card), but if you can run the game, you will love this title. It's great to look at, it's authentic, varied and great fun to play, the levels are so engrossing that you don't feel too disoriented by the globe hopping involved in working for the OSS.

MoH:AA is an excellent title, and one of the best storyline driven FPS titles on the PC. It is highly recommended if you have a computer powerful enough to get the most out of the game, and if you do the game is as engrossing as they come.

## Life caught on the run

By Debbie Flood

BY taking thirty minutes out of going to the movies, pub or a gig and doing something different, I found something that is equally interesting and entertaining. The Gallery of Photography in Temple Bar is holding the Eircell/Vodaphone Irish Press Awards.

A collection of over 100 of the best press photographs of the year is on display for the public to view, free of charge.

The exhibition provides the perfect opportunity to view the amazing images that have featured in the national and regional press in the last year. The photographs are broken up into eight categories: news, sport, features, people, the arts, politics and individual study.

There are three prize-winners in each section and an overall winner.

The exhibition features a selection of photographs which made the news in 2001, and encompasses a range of light hearted lifestyle pieces, images from the year in sport and some of the more disturbing events from the year.

One such photograph is 'Thin Ice', a dark and foreboding image of the Garda sub-aqua team

stretched across a frozen lake, attempting to recover the bodies of two girls who had fallen through the ice. The bleak colours and disturbing composition convey feelings of desperation and isolation.

Many of the images are quite lightweight emotionally, a humorous and fascinating image of a bird catching its own reflection in the mirror is truly memorable, along with a photograph of two little boys

at a pro-life rally. This image is a typical example of photographers playing with people's perceptions of a controversial issue, and is a heavily loaded image that has been in heavy circulation in the run up to March 6th.

A favourite for many is a photograph of a small boy surprised and bewildered by two drag queens. This image captures the changing nature of Irish society.

The winner of the Eircell/Vodaphone Irish Press Photographer of the Year is Brenda Fitzsimons. Ten works from this Irish Times photographer are on display, including 'Earth Angels,' which features five little girls walking to their naviy play. The lighting, colour and tone have an overall magical effect, and convey the aura of innocence and fairytale ambience associated with such childhood events.



# Deafening silence

By Ciara O'Connor

Ah, sweet mystery of a seated venue. For some reason, a place like the Project Arts theatre has a soporific effect on what is normally an animated crowd.

The NPB (previously National Prayer Breakfast), Deputy Fuzz, Future Kings of Spain gig was a definite test of the bands' quality, as the excruciating silence only contributed to the widely held perception that these bands are utterly professional, and note-perfect.

The opening act was Lisa O'Neill and John McNeagh from Ballyfermot Rock College. They played two original folk/acoustic songs, which warmed the audience up considerably. Lisa's soulful voice with a strong country twang is complemented well by John's quiet, soft rock style vocals. Their harmonies are exquisite and their timing impeccable.

The Future Kings of Spain

were the next act to tread the boards. They are a well-publicised and much discussed group; however, it was the first time I had been subject to their powerful rock. Looking exceptionally stylish in suits (we won't mention the trainers), the FKOS bring a new meaning to the word noise. The silence between songs was clearly unnerving for them and I'd safely say their regular crowd does not sit deferentially in their seats and pay full attention.

Next up were Deputy Fuzz... what a weird band. Their consistently outlandish vocal sounds married to a demo on a Casio keyboard (remember Xmas 1985?) make for a very bizarre treatment of songs about everything, from sandwiches to pet gofers to a tribute to Samantha Jones from Sex and the City. The whole set was a mish-mash of 40 second to 2 minute long snippets of what new and odd sounds the band had



The NPB Deputy Fuzz, Future Kings of Spain gig was a definite test of the bands' quality, as the excruciating silence only contributed to the widely held perception that these bands are utterly professional, and note-perfect

managed to formulate. Pity they didn't spend just a little longer on the musical quality of what they are producing as, at least, it is really original. Basically they are a crescendo of strangeness.

If that's what you like, and many people did, then their debut album, Music for Toys is out on March 14th.

Finally, the headlining act, ye olde reliable NPB.

"Paranoid Americana country stadium rock," is how the band describe themselves, yet this may be a tad convoluted. Always a sight to behold on stage, NPB's unique clap-along punk and garage rock sounds break the silence and really get the crowd moving (finally).

What with Darragh on his knees playing keyboard and guitar, Patrick falling about the stage and their new and

permanent guitarist jumping madly about the place, they were never boring, and energetic as always. Their new material is surprisingly heavy, and vocally Patrick gets better every time they play, it seems.

However, their old stuff was still a resolved preference with the crowd as roars for Feeding Frenzy rang out before the encore. As usual, the band's relationship

with their audience is what makes their gigs extra special, and their ongoing banter initiated some really crazy dancing.

Playing a mixture of material from 'The Sociables Prefer Pop Music', their debut, and their great new 10 inch 'This is my Happening and it \*\*\*\*\* me up', both new and old material was fondly received by a belatedly enthusiastic crowd.

## Revs rock Ambassador

By Andrew Rea and Kieran Dineen

"They're thinking of changing their name to Number 3 inspired by their idols A1, 2-Unlimited, Five, Six and S-Club 7 but that is all Hearsay!" or so said the rather jubilant announcer before The Revs took to the stage. Donegal's finest were here to rock and they did just that.

From the off they engaged with the young audience getting them worked up, moshin' and jumpin', through their own brand of exhilarating, fast pop-punk music. This threesome play simple catchy tunes keeping their music accessible to all ages yet not selling out to the mainstream. Both Rory Gallagher (lead singer) and John McIntyre (bass guitarist) worked the stage as if they have been years on the circuit and Rory's 'scissors-jumps', were a true crowd pleaser. Indeed songs like 'We love America' which was dedicated to the capitalists in the venue, show just how much they have improved since their 'Battle of the Bands' winning days.

Their satirical tribute to Louis Walsh, which has taken on a cult-like status, was one of the high-points of the night. It is testament to the Revs that the lyric 'Louis Walsh said, Rock & Roll's dead' remains only an ironic anecdote. The band has been nominated for the Best Newcomer/Hope for 2002 at the upcoming IRMA awards alongside Louis' trio of pop sensations Six, Reel

and Bellefire. They championed their own cause throughout the night as the only credible choice for true music fans.

The unique style with which they blended their own songs almost seamlessly with popular songs is something which sets them apart from other contemporary acts. Also of note was their slant on Kylie's worldwide smash-hit 'Can't get you out of my head' (or bed as the boys' crudely interjected), played a la Travis' rendition of 'Hit me baby one more time'. The Revs' singles 'Wired to the Moon' and 'Still alone with you' harbored the most expectation and again failed to disappoint.

We feel obliged to say a few words about the second support act Deputy Fuzz. They are playing in Whelans on March 16th. Lets just say we will be somewhere else come the 16th. The first-support band Cody were not half-bad however, possibly worth another look.

The Revs' cover of Hendrix's 'Foxy Lady' proved a perfect end to a great night even though the security at times seemed a bit over-enthusiastic. Lets just hope that the Revs win the IRMA beating those "bubble gum disposable mass marketed over-hyped Frankenstein creations".

The next single from their debut album Sonic Tonic, "Turning Japanese" has been tipped as an Irish Wold Cup anthem.



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# A movie knock-out

## Ali

*Starring: Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, John Voight*

*Director: Michael Mann*

Depicting the life of the most famous man alive was always going to be a difficult task for director Michael Mann. The retelling of the life of Muhammad Ali is a story whose wholesomeness, controversy and drama could never truly be justified in a two and a half-hour movie.

But to Mann's credit, Ali is an interesting if not riveting account of the most turbulent decade of The Greatest's life. The movie kicks off with Cassius Clay's surprise victory over Sonny Liston and ending with his even more sensational knocking out of the human monolith that was George Foreman in the 1974 'Rumble in the Jungle'. Will Smith is a convincing Ali and his beefed up physique and intensive preparation is evident in each of the movie's excellently shot fight scenes. Ali's relationship with TV sports presenter Howard Cosell (brilliantly played by a barely recognisable John Voight) is wonderfully retold and provides some of the lighter moments of a movie that offers glimpses of the Ali psyche. Such elements of a larger than life individual that Ali was in the 60's have never fully been addressed, such as his womanising and his devotion to the Nation of Islam. Mario Van Peebles' Malcolm X is weak and one cannot get Denzel Washington's depiction of the same figure from one's mind when viewing Ali. That the movie opens by focusing on this relationship between Clay and Malcolm X probably does the whole event a disservice.

Jamie Foxx's fabulous portrayal of Ali's corner man, the legendary Drew 'Bundini' Brown is the acting



## Dermot Keyes reflects on a good month at the flicks

highlight of the movie, not taking from Smith's excellent performance, which was worthy of the Oscar nomination he received. While this is a movie well worth a viewing on the big screen, Leon Gast's *When We Were Kings* (a wonderful documentary about 'The Rumble in the Jungle') remains the greatest celluloid depiction of the man they called 'The Greatest.' Ali is no Raging Bull, but represents a worthy addition to the legend of the 20th century's most charismatic sportsman.

fabulous two hours or so of fun, packed with more A-list stars that you could shake a stick at. Oscar winning director Steven Soderbergh dispensed with his recent social comment overtones and lets loose, allowing his superb cast to have a bit of fun. And it shows.

George Clooney, maturing into the tux-wearing Cary Grant-type matinee idol that has often been predicted of him, swans through this movie with the grin and the arched eyebrow which has served him well since he took the Batsuit off. As his

Kent were he ever offered the part. Don Cheadle's cockney timbre is hilarious as one almost felt some Guy Ritchie influences every time he opened his mouth, while Andy Garcia walks around Vegas likes he owns the place; the fact that he does own the place obviously helps! Elliot Gould sports an Olympian gut and appalling dress sense and steals the show as a former casino mogul keen for revenge on Garcia, who bought him out. As for Julia Roberts, well, Julia Roberts has never been all that much of an actress in this reviewer's opinion and a bit like Damon, she walks around a lot looking a little confused.

But this movie is just pure popcorn munching fun with a lively script, super soundtrack courtesy of Belfast's David Holmes and some slapstick dialogue. Ocean's Eleven is a sophisticated high-tech barrel load of laughs. Most of the cast has commented on how good a time they had while making the movie and this party atmosphere is suitably captured by Soderbergh. Great fun and well worth checking out. (All movie anoraks look out for a tiny nod to Mr Clooney's former life as Dr Doug)

## Gosford Park

*Starring: Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren, Ryan Phillippe, Kristin Scott Thomas*

*Director: Robert Altman*

Robert Altman returns to form with a splendid murder mystery set in a stately English country house in the 1930's, with an acting ensemble even more impressive than the motley Las Vegas gang that Soderbergh grouped together.

The movie's murder is almost incidental, something of a nod towards Altman's

Muhammad Ali (Will Smith) and Howard Cosell (Jon Voight) during one of their several altercations in 'Ali'

bungling detective work at its very best and one could only hope for more comedic roles on the big screen for the big man. But the star of the show is Maggie Smith, who dominates every scene with utter pomposity, the finest show of movie snobbery that yours truly can ever recall. An Oscar nomination was the least she deserved in a most enjoyable yarn which was deservedly recently rewarded at the BAFTA's.

## Still showing....

Monster's Inc is simply brilliant but is just a little short of the unbridled joy of Shrek which should get the nod at the Academy Awards. Don't Say A Word is enjoyable, thriller-type nonsense with the rarity of Michael Douglas playing an heroic role. The Fellowship of the Ring remains on the big screen for saddy anoraks such as little old me, and still represents the greatest action fantasy ever committed to celluloid. Yes, that means better than Star Wars...



When George met Julia. The estranged Oceans meet in Ocean's Eleven

## Ocean's Eleven

*Starring: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia and Julia Roberts*

*Director: Steven Soderbergh*

While this is a movie that will not be winning any gongs of note, Ocean's Eleven is a

premier partner in the casino heist of the century, Brad Pitt is excellent and both work off each other brilliantly throughout. Matt Damon does a lot of walking around Las Vegas and delivers a performance which suggests he could make a fine Clark



Maggie Smith could well have snobbed herself to an Oscar in the excellent Gosford Park



# citysounds

By Laurence Mackin.

Once again Rag Week has come and gone and left in its wake a plethora of decimated students with blurred memories, odd scarring and smiles on their faces.

Rag Week sums up all that is good about the carefree happy go lucky nature of student life, the kind of thing that leads accountants in their thirties to look back at their time in college, when they had friends outside of an office and didn't use terms like "weekly SWOT breakdown" and "FYI financial solvency", and come over all misty eyed. At least that's the ideal. In DIT however, we dance to the beat of a different drum.

Rag Week has not exactly become the zenith of the student entertainment year.

A cobbled together number of boozing sessions in some less than salubrious drinking emporiums, a Rag Ball that is a continual disaster year in year out, a trip to the most godforsaken part of the country on CIE's finest, and college wide competitions with a tray of Fosters as the grand prize for eating all the pies is what the DIT student has had to endure for the past few years. But does it really have to be this bad?

Entertainment officers are elected by the student body to do a straight-forward job, for which they get paid, and continually their response to the challenge of entertaining students, for even just one week of the year, is dismal at best.

There are a litany of DIT organised events which have been dire, or cancelled at the last minute, with poor ticket sales ubiquitously to blame.

But is this because the average DIT student does not want to fraternise with other students, or is it because what has consistently been put on offer at these events is unacceptable?

The Rag Ball was a case in point. DIT is the largest college in the country and as such should have an annual event that even people outside of the college want to go to every year.

Loathe am I to promote that most arrogant of institutions, but the Trinity Ball has demonstrated just how effective and how well these events can be handled on an annual basis, and rarely have I heard people complain of a bad night at the Trinity Ball.

Rather than get a number of original acts that would be real crowd pleasers and draw

in a good audience, both within and outside the college, the DITSU's plan of attack is to put a bunch of cover bands in a warehouse miles from the city centre.

Although I understand that DIT doesn't have the grounds to stage a huge event, surely it would be better to have a busy night at a smaller centrally-located venue than an empty loss making barn?

Promoting Rag Week within a college is preaching to the converted.

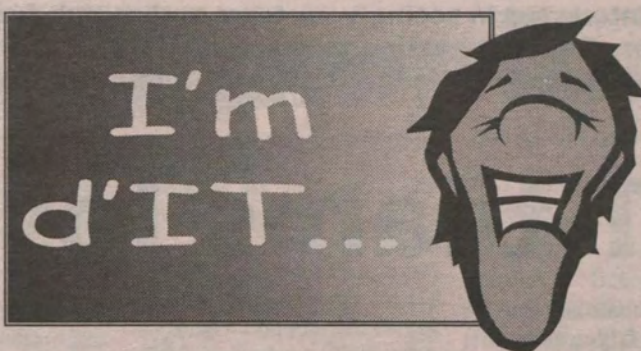
Frequently, providing case loads of cheap beer is substituted for providing good entertainment.

Giving students a good night out is like shooting fish in a barrel, every week they go out several times and enjoy themselves and spend a lot of money.

So getting them to enjoy themselves at an organised event, targeted at people from their college should not be that difficult.

The fact that a poor Rag Week has become a part of the DIT academic year should not be accepted by students and DIT management alike, and those responsible should be held accountable.

Email: city\_sounds@hotmail.com



By Fiachra Rocco-Goveny.

Well it's no surprise that the rag ball was a disaster, we're talking wearing light blue this season disaster. How can you expect an event to be a success when you don't cater for the people that really matter, like moi? Where were the invites, the cocktail reception, the promo nights in the Fitzwilliam, the free accommodation and transfer to the Shelbo, and the fashionable but nutritionally conscious tit bits? I mean, it's hardly much to ask.

Before I even thought about committing my name to the guest list I did a little bit of investigating and found that there was going to be no VIP room.

I mean, seriously, what's the point, some sort of hyper p.c. nonsense that means I have to mix and match with a bunch of total skangers mouthing the words to Dancing Queen? I don't think so.

And to add insult to injury, they were holding the non-event in the Point and wouldn't even provide a limo to bring me there, much less a red carpet. I mean honestly, I've heard of better hospitality in northside hotels.

So anyway, in order to placate the anger that such a blatant disregard for moi was taking place, I decide to hold my own petit soiree at FRG Towers, and the attendance was certainly not unsubscribed that night.

Maybe that's why there were so few in the Point, because the queue of scroungers around Merrion Square trying to get past my velvet rope was nothing

short of Oscar night-like. The theme was Moulin Rouge, the people were to die for and the night was a fabulous success, from the wasabi sushi rolls (low fat bien sur) and tofu tempura by my NBF Jean Michel de Chong (he's half French, half Italian and half Thai, but then all the best chefs are) to the Dom Perignon reception (none of that cheap and cheerful Moët rubbish in my pad, thank you very much).

We danced the night away and not an impersonator or fake personality in sight. M

y only mistake on the night was not selling the exclusive rights of coverage to Hello beforehand, but never mind, one lives and learns from one's faux pas. Maybe someone should tell DITSU that.

Thankfully, the seventh plague that is the January sales is over, and one can return to B.T.'s without the threat of some total scrubber asking if they have an Amanda Wakeley in a size 16. I mean honestly, it was like Bay fucking root in there after Christmas.

Everything is now back at it's normal prices and most of the clothes are reassuringly over the E500 mark.

Another thing I noticed about the introduction of the euro is that everything else seems more expensive, so you can feel even better in your Ralph Lauren's when your painting the town red.

Anyhow, must go, because quite frankly I have lost interest. Ciao.

FRG



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If you are interested in seeing your team and/or club featured in the pages of the DIT Independent, or if you have something interesting to share with students about sport in college or in general, please contact Sports Editor Miguel Delaney at 4023071, or by e-mail at [ditsport@hotmail.com](mailto:ditsport@hotmail.com). This is your paper and we'd love to hear from you!

# DIT teams lose out again

WITH DIT's football and hurling teams once again falling at the first hurdle in the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cup's respectively, yet another poor GAA season was wrapped up in DIT. With problems clearly needing to be assessed, Miguel Delaney spoke to DIT's GAA Development Officer Des O'Donnell and asked him what can be done.

DIT's performances in both football and hurling this season have been far from enviable. The fact that a home draw in the Sigerson Cup preliminary round was the year's highlight says enough in itself.

In football, despite some good performances, the team won no league matches; the solitary victory in the whole season coming against the UCD freshers. The hurlers enjoyed slightly better success in the league, defeating NUI Maynooth who defeated them well in last year's Fitzgibbon Cup, but ultimately failed to win another game and couldn't match Limerick IT in the Fitzgibbon Cup. For Ireland's biggest third level college this makes for poor reading.

"The performance in Terenure against NUIG in the Sigerson Cup turned a very poor season into only



DIT's performances in both football and hurling this season have been far from enviable

a poor season" explains Des O'Donnell. "That however was the only time the footballers hit form in the whole year and for whatever reason that is we need to find out. Our preparation wasn't ideal in that the challenge matches that were lined up failed to materialise. But this is the third year in a row that we have failed to reach the play-offs of the Sigerson Cup so there is a bigger problem."

But while O'Donnell believes that the talent and ability among DIT footballers is definitely there, the draw against a formidable NUIG team confirming that, the

question is at what level is it good enough to compete? "Maybe its time to ask ourselves are we a high enough standard to compete in the Sigerson Cup. We haven't been successful in the competition since 1999 and it seems this year's team was more the level of a Trench Cup team. Other colleges, such as St Patrick's, have dropped down to the Trench Cup, the secondary competition to the Sigerson, and done well so it's something to consider. Certainly a debate on the matter would be a useful exercise."

As for hurling, sadly it's the same story. Should the college remain also-rans at the top level or potentially see glory lower down? "Again this is something to look at," believes Des.

"NUI Maynooth hockeyed us in the first round of the Fitzgibbon Cup last year but while they made the decision to drop down to the Ryan Cup this year, considering themselves not good enough, we decided to go for it in the Fitzgibbon. And while our performance was satisfactory in terms of approach and determination, our skill level was well short."

"And this is happening all the time in hurling as we find the Munster colleges and UCD a step

ahead of us. Maybe its because we don't get the intermediate or under 21 county players that they do but we have to look at it. However the Hurlers will struggle on."

The 2001/2002 season has therefore given DIT's football and hurling teams a lot to ponder. Are they to continue with poor seasons among the best or see success at a lower standard?

"As the likes of DCU, NUI Maynooth and St Patrick's have shown, we can drop down to the Trench and Ryan Cups and do well. And perhaps success at this level could be something to build on. Again a debate on it is something to consider," Des believes.

"However sometimes dropping down doesn't look good. It seems as if we're moving backwards and giving up on higher standards. And you never know, every year brings a new panel of players and maybe next year's bunch will have four or five who can make a jump to the seniors."

And then we might have a competitive team at the highest level again. After tasting success in the Sigerson Cup in 1999 you want more of it and it's something to aim for."

## Whistle Blowers



IT'S amazing how a bit of TV coverage gets you wrapped up in sports which you normally have no real interest in. It happens every July with Wimbledon and every April with the World Snooker Championships. For two weeks I'll be glued to the screen, hoping Tim Henman gets beaten, or that Ken Doherty can bring home another World title, then not really care about either sport for the rest of the year.

But this month's coverage of the Winter Olympics has gone one step further. It got me watching sports I don't understand or indeed ones I had never even heard of before.

As usual it was the BBC, having lost out on most sports of any real broadcasting value, who were the only terrestrial channel to give live coverage of the Winter Games.

All their usual utility sports presenters were flown out to Salt Lake City to uncomfortably analyse sports that they hadn't a clue about. Steve Ryder, Sue Barker and Clare Balding were predictably there, but Barry Davies?

Surely that was some sort of demotion for their former premier soccer commentator.

As for the sports themselves, the majorities were only familiar to those of you unlucky enough to have been given EA's Winter Olympics on the Sega Mega Drive on your eleventh birthday.

First of all let's take curling. What at first glance seemed like someone throwing a kettle for another two lads to run after with sweeping brushes, is in fact so much more. I found myself enthralled by the BBC's generous coverage of it, despite the fact that I didn't really have a clue what was going on (like the commentary team for that matter).

Take-outs? Four foot rings? All these terms meant nothing to me, but somehow I was still watching as Britain (really just Scotland) overtook Canada as the world's premier curling nation. What an honour! The Beeb predictably blew it out of all proportions having us believe it was 1966 all over again.

Then there are all the Winter Olympic classics such as figure skating, ski jumping, bobsleigh and speed skating, familiar to the general public through the likes of Torvill and Dean, Eddie the Eagle and Cool Runnings. Ice hockey's fast pace and propensity for violence ensured its own loyal following and it was arguably the most mainstream sport in the Games, while the farce that passed for speed skating in the Games proved a great laugh.

And last but definitely not least there was Men's Skeleton. As apparently insane men hurtled down a mountainside on a tea tray at speeds of 125 km per hour, it should have been inconceivable to see an Irish man competing in such an event.

But here was a man named Jim Shea Jr. (a.k.a the 6th Lord Clifton Wrottesley) careering down towards a fourth place finish and in the proceedings display unusual sporting spirit.

Though Wrottesley's Irish links are as tenuous as a Charlton era centre-forward (a bit harsh - born in Galway so he was! - Ed) it was great to see a green, white and orange blur risking his physical state for the sake of his country. An Irishman as a champion skeleton would have added even more of a surreal touch to what was a strange Games.

Miguel Delaney

## News in Brief

● THE DIT Annual Sports Awards Night will take place this year at the Hilton hotel on Wednesday 20th March. All DIT Sports Clubs should submit their nomination forms to Niamh O'Callaghan before Wednesday 13th March. Guest speaker on the night will be veteran RTE commentator Jimmy McGhee.

● Tennis Lessons for all levels will commence on Thursday 28th February from 5 to 7pm in Glasnevin Lawn Tennis Club. Contact Herbie McLelland on 087-2933442 for further details.

● Meanwhile tennis coaching for all standards is also available in Charleville, Drumcondra. If interested contact Colin 087-961 1521.

● Anybody interested in inter-varsity road and mountain biking events should contact Padraig Marrey, Youth Development Officer with Cycling Ireland, on 087-7992857 or e-mail [ucdccc@hotmail.com](mailto:ucdccc@hotmail.com) or call Niamh O'Callaghan on 087-2985849.

● Larkin Gym opening hours have changed from the usual 6-9pm to 5 to 8pm every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. A qualified instructor will be on hand for fitness programmes and fitness testing. Contact the Sports Officer in your college for further information.

● If interested in playing squash in Phoenix Squash Courts in Clontarf ring Joe Tierney at 853 0156, or email: [tierney\\_joe@hotmail.com](mailto:tierney_joe@hotmail.com).

● Yoga Classes are currently taking place every Thursday in DIT Mountjoy Square from 12 to 1pm and every Wednesday in DIT C.B.S. Room 104 from 1 to 2pm.

● Kickboxing classes are being held in DIT Kevin St. gym every Monday from 5 to 6:30pm and in DIT Bolton St. every Tuesday from 6 to 7pm. All beginners welcome.

● The Ladies soccer team train every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 pm on the Belvedere College astro-turf pitch and anyone interested in joining can head on down.

● If interested in playing volleyball contact Niamh at 087-298 5849.

● Any students willing to join the DIT Caving Club can contact Bernie on 087-9612169.

## Gaelic games round up

By Miguel Delaney

### Fitzgibbon Cup

Limerick IT 1-14 - DIT 0-10

JUST 24 hours after the footballers were knocked out of the Sigerson Cup, DIT's hurlers came to a similar fate in the first round of the Fitzgibbon Cup as they were beaten 1-14 to 0-10 by Limerick IT in Burgess.

However the hurlers failed to replicate the fight that the football team had put in against NUIG, DIT simply couldn't contain Tipperary star Eoin Kelly who turned in a top class performance and came out with a personal haul of 1-10, all from frees.

DIT did start the match brightly and ran Limerick IT close for the opening 20 minutes, never going more than two points behind. However Kelly's goal from a free minutes from the interval put Limerick ahead by 1-8 to 0-6 at half-time and seemed to kill off DIT.

Although Wexford's Nicky Lambert tried his best to keep DIT alive, scoring nine points with eight from frees, the Dublin team never looked like getting back into the game as Limerick IT played out the second half comfortably. The only bad point for the home side was the late dismissal of Limerick under-21 star Damian Reale for a second bookable offence.

Scorers: Limerick IT - E Kelly 1-10, D Considine 0-2,

K Callinan, D Carmody 0-1 each

DIT - N Lambert 0-9, J Hogan 0-1

### Sigerson Cup

NUIG 1-14 - DIT 0-5

The DIT Senior Football team were knocked out of the Sigerson Cup this month after NUIG emphatically beat them 1-14 to 0-5 in their preliminary round replay at Dangan, Galway.

In the match DIT failed to reproduce the spirit and determination that had been so abundant five days earlier in Terenure, as Galway County star Matthew Clancy ran riot scoring a goal and five points.

Despite going ahead after only 21 seconds with a point by Derek McCormack, DIT quickly fell behind as the Galway side took control. By half-time it was 0-8 to 0-3 to the home side and in the 47th minute Clancy put victory beyond doubt with a well struck goal past DIT keeper Eoin Elliott.

Though McCormack proved as effective from free kicks as he had been in the first match, scoring 4 points, DIT simply couldn't pick themselves up and NUIG ran out easy 1-14 to 0-5 winners.

NUIG: D Morris, D Lyne, C Davey, D O'Sullivan, J O'Donoghue, R Leonard, C O'Neill, D Rooney (0-1) (capt), D O'Shaughnessy, M O Callarain (0-2), BJ

Padden, M Keane (0-1), C McFadden (0-4), M Clancy (1-5), R O'Headra (0-1)

Subs: C Considine for O'Headra, C Monahan for Leonard

DIT: E Elliott, C Giles, D Kiernan, M Gahan, N Cleere, J Brogan (capt), B McGrath, I McManus, G Doran, D McCormack (0-4), S Brey, L Mooney, J Carlton, S McKeigue (0-1), M Mulvaney  
Subs: T Walsh for Mooney, B Kelly for Gahan, M Reilly for Mulvaney, L Mooney for Carlton

The Sigerson Cup was eventually won by Sligo IT who beat favourites UCC by 0-6 to 0-5 in a tight final at Markeivicz Park. Sligo IT started stronger, in a game played in awful weather conditions, but could only manage a 0-4 to 0-3 lead by half-time.

With Conrad Murphy in fine form it seemed UCC would punish Sligo IT as they led 0-5 to 0-4 with only 10 minutes to go.

However Paul Finlay struck over with two frees in the final minutes to secure Sligo IT's first ever Sigerson Cup win.

In the tournament DIT's conquerors NUIG were knocked out by UCC in the first round, who on their way to the final also eliminated 2001 champions Jordanstown.



# DIT crowned ICBA champions

DIT... 78  
UCC... 61

By Ronan Holohan

DIT men's basketball team were crowned college league champions for the first time ever after defeating UCC in the 'A' final.

DIT led the game from start to finish playing with a high up tempo style on both ends of the floor, in what proved a superb all-round team performance.

By the end of the first quarter DIT were in control of the game leading 25 to 9 with big offensive rebounds and great inside play from Jerome Fouquet, John Norris and David Harrison.

In the second quarter DIT upped the pace of the game with some excellent team defence frustrating the UCC team. This defensive work led to a run and gun fastbreak offence with great scores from captain Dermot Kavanagh, Sean Coughlan,

and Rob McNulty. With Danny and Barry Bates controlling the play and excellent outside shooting from Yanik Jayet and Ian Barrett, DIT led by 20 points at the half-time break.

The third quarter saw the Cork side try to redeem themselves but DIT continued where they left off in the first half with intense defence, fast break scores and dominating inside play.

In the fourth quarter UCC returned to the court like a

different side, with a full court defensive press which rattled DIT.

Some excellent individual play from Niall O'Reilly and Martin Kennedy brought UCC to within 11 points, but soon DIT managed to break the Cork side's press and saw them increase their lead again.

Some strange refereeing calls saw David Harrison fouling out with three minutes to go in the game, but the DIT team were never

going to let this game slip from their grasp. UCC ended up having to foul to try and get the game back, and Barry Bates's free throws and a Jerome Fouquet fast break dunk sealed an impressive and dominating 18 point victory.

*DIT Top scorers:* Jerome Fouquet - 32 points John Norris - 18 points

*Semi-final score:*  
DIT ..... 70  
NUI Galway ... 50

DIT college team:

Dermot Kavanagh (captain), Barry Bates, Daniel Bates, Jerome Fouquet, Yanik Jayet,

David Harrison, David Horan, Ian Barrett, Rob McNulty, John Norris, Sean Coughlan,

Niall Maher, Colin Price, Keith McGee, Alex Mosley, Graham Masters and Derek Arnold. Coach: Ronan Holohan. Assistant coach: Keith McGee

## Man Celtic claim indoor crown

By Anthony O'Sullivan

RAG Week saw another Indoor soccer league in Kevin Street come to a close. This year's matches were just as intense as last year's, with the same amount of blood and sweat being pulverized out of players as they were checked up against the climbing wall.

The one difference this year was the thankful absence of match fixing, most notably in the final. There were the usual outrageous team names though, with many sides not living up to them.

'Can we kick it' obviously couldn't as they finished bottom of their group without securing a single point, while the fabulous 'Dream team' actually played like their on-screen counterparts: crap. And then there was 'Man Celtic'.

Such a bold name needed to be backed up by some fancy footie and they didn't disappoint. They destroyed all opposition in their path and took Group A with ease.

They kicked off the quarter-finals with a professional display of passing football, beating the 'A1's' 14-7.

'Ten left feet' meanwhile proved aptly named as they crashed out losing 3-12 to the 'Smokey Joes'.

Their excuse was that they were still recovering from the rag trip.

What the hell are students made of these days? What happened to the good old days when footballers could handle their drink?

The next bunch up were 'the Untouchables'. This toughened outfit put up a good show against the formidable 'Jelly Tots', who had won Group B with a record breaking 22-1 victory over the 'A1's' on the way. (The 'A1's' actually set a new record for the most goals conceded in the competition with 96. Good show lads! - Are you American Samoa in disguise? - Ed).

The 'Jelly Tots' however paid no heed to their



Man Celtic: 2002 Indoor Soccer winners

opposition's name, with this one threatening to resemble scenes from a Tyson-Lewis press conference.

After the dust settled, the

tots won it 10-9. The last quarter-final match never happened, as the 'Mods' decided that their rag week was better off spent in the library studying. So

'Locomotive Dublin' got a bye into the semis where they too fell to the 'Jelly Tots'.

In a game mired by questionable refereeing

decisions, the Tots ran out 13-12 victors. In the other semi-final, Man Celtic put the philosophy of total football into practice with an 11 to 7 win over the gallant 'Smokey Joe's'.

So to the final, which with both group winners competing lived up to expectation.

This was true cup football with a last second goal from the not so soft 'Jelly Tots' putting it into extra-time. The cooler heads of 'Man Celtic' however won through in the end by 11 goals to 8.

On getting their hands on the lustrous On Campus Sports\* Trophy the boys assured me that the prize money would indeed be going towards their education.

\* On Campus Sports are organizing a 5-Side Soccer World Cup Blitz for March 13th in Astropark.

They hope to see many more Man Celts competing on the day for the 400 up for grabs. Details can be found on posters around the DIT campuses.



Smiles all round as Man Celtic celebrate their victory.

## Karting Club finally receives funding

By Dermot Keyes

The DIT Independent has learned that DIT Karting Club 2001 has received insurance, which permits it to press ahead with a list of events previously restricted by its lack of funding and insurance cover. The DIT Sports Council has a policy whereby all sports are

covered, except Mountaineering and Karting as these are considered 'dangerous' sports. Despite the policy being in operation for several years, this omission has only recently been discovered. But recent discussions have seen the club's financial allocation of £3000 (€3809) finally been granted to the club by the Sports Council, a decision which delighted its chairman Bob Coggins.

"This is great news for all concerned and we're looking forward to some good karting now that the insurance problem has been resolved," said Coggins. "The DIT Sports Council recently looked to have us insured instead of at the beginning of the year when the problem was discovered," he said.

"However we are now free to be insured which means we can get back on track in more ways than one." For the small portion of the remaining college year, DIT's karting aficionados can expect a little more action than the pre-Christmas scenario permitted.

Prior to their good news, DIT Karting Club 2001 began preparations for the All-Ireland Intervarsity Championship, which they are currently co-ordinating. This annual event has been won by D.I.T. for the past three years and Bob is confident that they have the talent to pull off another victory despite the lack of recent competition. The event is to be held on the 9th of March, in Pallas Karting, Tynagh, Galway.

At the moment, the club is in the process of organising funding for the weekend, which usually turns out to be fairly expensive, so any help is appreciated. The club meanwhile would like to thank Brian 'Sinto' Sinnott and Ken 'Gail' Gallagher for the work put in over the year as well as everyone else who has helped out.





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